■ Business / B1
Gas, diesel, kerosene prices up anew

■ Across / A17
Cory hacienda retrenching workers

■ Entertainment / A32
Dely Atay-atayan; 90

■News / A2
For 1st time, Carl, Clarence leave hospital separately

Tanong ng Bayan / A24
Bawasan ang pork barrel, o tuluyan nang tanggalin?
WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

'Kabayan' is caretaker while GMA is in China

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

WITH President Macapagal-Arroyo going to China on a three-day visit, Vice President Noli de Castro will get a feel of what it's like to be the big boss.

It may not be much of a feeling.

The popular former television anchor was

'KABAYAN'/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Cop goes from hero to heel for sleeping on the job

By C. Esguerra and L. Salaverria

PARANG BANGUNGOT

PO1 MARCIANO Ilustre went from hero to "heel" in less than 48 hours.

On the evening of

COP/ A21

edback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, September 1, 2004 ★★★ 54 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 266 P18
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LITTLE boy blue takes an uneasy ride in Bulacan floodwaters. Central Luzon experienced its worst flooding since the 1970s. REUTERS

River of life brings death, suffering to CL folk

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Like planting cycles, floods—*albug*, in the dialect—are regular seasons in the calendar of the hardy Kapampangans, who have lived for centuries in the basin-shaped Central Luzon.

Accustomed to the winds and waters of the Rio Grande (Pampanga River), Kapampangans had come to regard the river as a means of transport and their source of fish and water for their crops.

A source of life, the river has also become a source of suffering.

Of the more than 40 people who died in the rampaging floods that swept through much of Luzon the past week, at least 13 were from Central Luzon. The floods were caused partly by the

RIVER/ A21

Floods jack up Metro food prices

By Christine Gaylican

BE THANKFUL if you see military trucks loaded with vegetables surging through the floods.

That means soldiers are now helping ferry farm products from the north of the country to Metro Manila in order to bring down food prices, which have shot up in the wake of the massive flooding that has swamped Central Luzon.

The retail price of vegetable produce, such as carrots, has risen from an average of P50 to P120 per kilo in Metro Manila markets the past few days,

FLOODS/ A21

CBCP urges clergy to give cash to gov't

By Jeffrey M. Tupas and Anthony S. Allada, *PDI Mindanao Bureau,*
Blanche S. Rivera and Cynthia D. Balana, *in Manila*

THE PRESIDENT of the powerful Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has come to the cash-strapped government's rescue.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla has called on the faithful, especially members of the religious community, to embark on a collective sacrifice to help address the country's financial crisis.

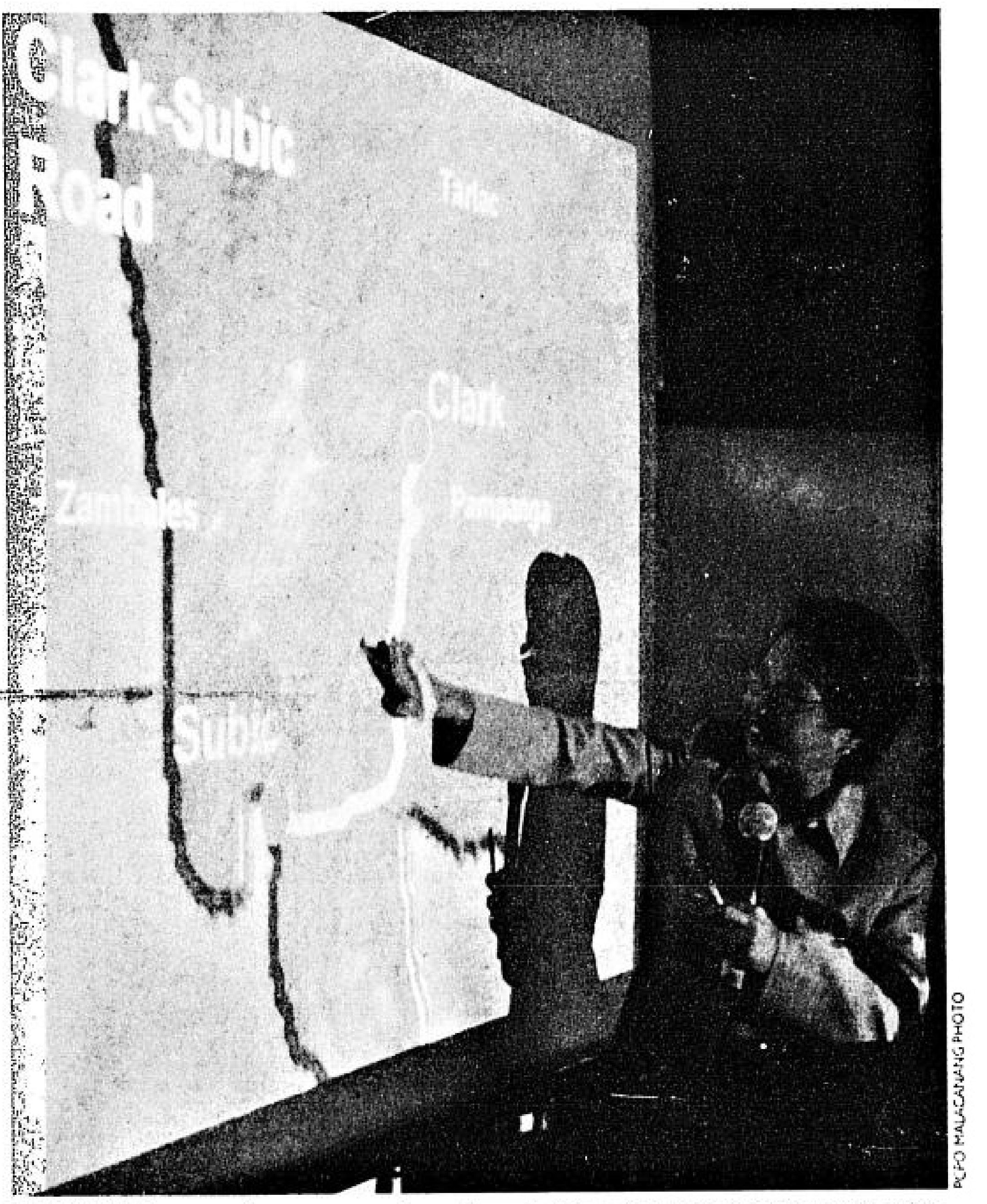
During a Mass in Davao City on Monday afternoon, Capalla's straightforward plea was: "It is possible for bishops, priests, nuns, students, and all the faithful to give up their monthly allowance maybe for one month or two and give it to the President?"

Even P1 each from the 75 million Catholics in the country would ease the problem, he said in his homily, and more than this could spell the "much needed miracle" that Filipinos needed.

As CBCP president, Capalla said, he meant to influence the entire Philippine Catholic community in deciding to "set an example of sharing." He warned that a financial crisis could translate to a crisis of the faith.

"I cannot direct the call to those who do not share my belief," he said. "[But] if all of you will join me, we will be able to make an impact throughout the country. We can influence people who are rich but greedy, and insensitive to

CBCP/ A21



PCPO MALACANANG PHOTO

PRESIDENT Arroyo, a former economics professor, is in her element explaining her 10-point agenda to her top officials during the Cabinet workshop at the Palace on Tuesday.

Lim is 4th senator to give up entire pork

By Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

OPPOSITION Sen. Alfredo Lim yesterday announced that he was giving up his entire pork barrel of P200 million for next year as an act of "sacrifice."

"If I would want to be of help to the nation, I would rather do it wholeheartedly and unconditionally and that would be by giving up the pork barrel allotted to my office altogether instead of merely slashing it," Lim said.

His decision brought to four the number of senators who have given up their pork barrel, officially known as Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF). The others were Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators

LIM/ A8

Senate set to cut ₱106.7B from 2005 budget

By Michael Lim Ubac and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE SENATE is poised to cut P106.7 billion, which includes the liabilities of National Power Corp. (Napocor), from the proposed General Appropriations Act for 2005, according to Sen. Ralph Recto.

Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said that the real budget was more than the P907 billion submitted by Malacañang to Congress, which, he said, only accounted for programmed expenditures.

"What was not submitted was the budget for unprogrammed expenditures in the amount of P35 billion, another P35 billion for the cash difference (accounts payable for 2004), plus P36.7 billion for the interest expense of Napocor-assumed liabilities," he said.

Malacañang was in effect asking Congress to approve a P1.01-trillion budget, he said.

Recto and a number of senators, who attended the hearing on the fiscal plan of the government on Monday, found this figure staggering considering the fiscal crisis.

Recto and Sen. Richard Gordon wanted to junk the additional P106.7 billion in expenditures should the administration's economic managers fail to justify the amount.

Recto said approving the additional expenditures would amount to authorizing the executive to borrow more money to cover the unprogrammed rider expenses, cash payables and Napocor's interest expense.

At the hearing, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin agreed with this observation. Unprogrammed items are only released if there is a budget, and

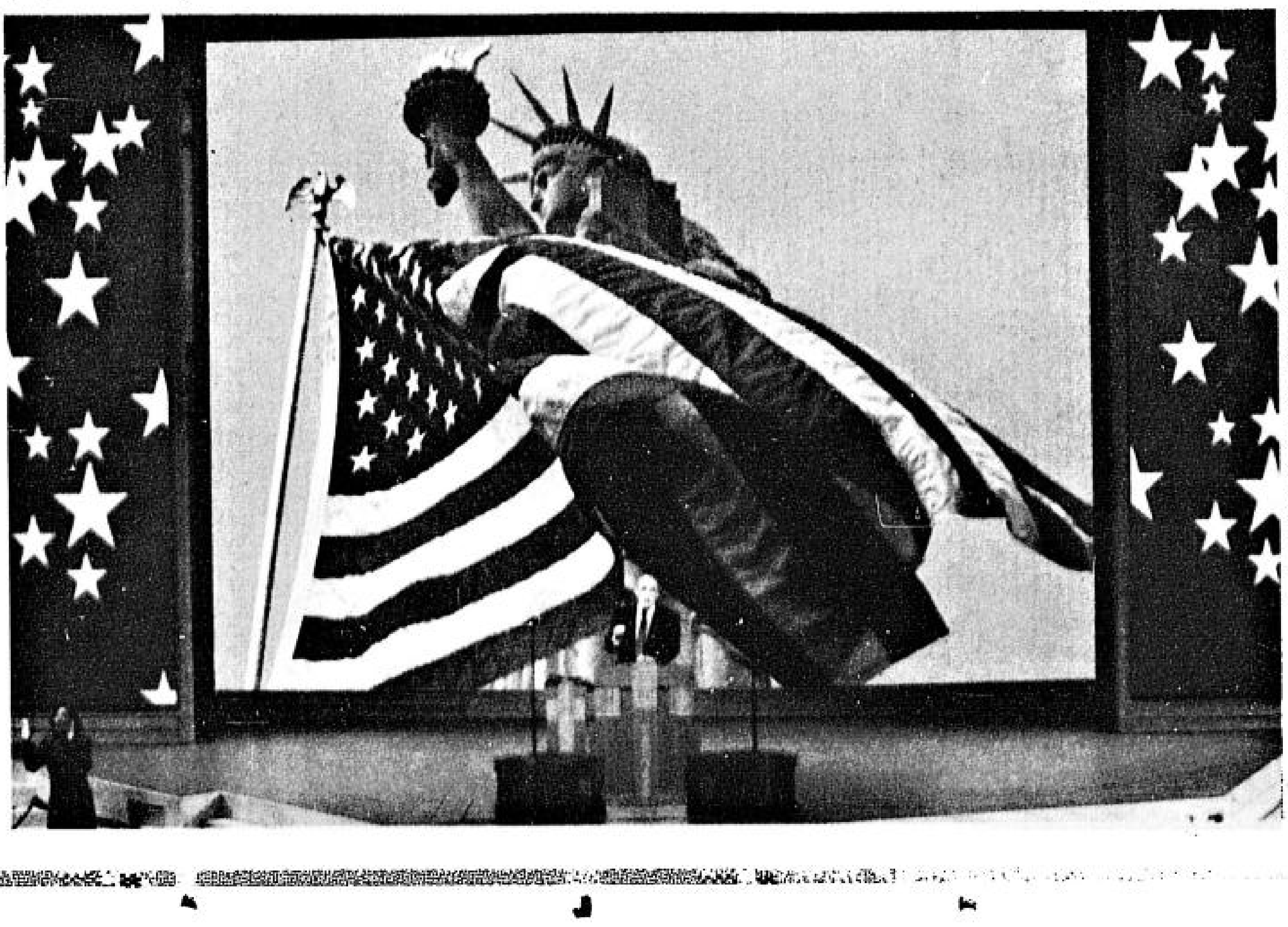
SENATE/ A22

Bush says war on terror can't be won

NASHUA, New Hampshire—President George W. Bush said in an interview broadcast on Monday that he did not think America could win the war on terror but that it could make terrorism less acceptable around the world, a departure from his previous optimistic statements that the United States would eventually prevail.

In the interview with Matt Lauer of the NBC "Today" program conducted Saturday but shown on the opening day of the Republican National Convention, Bush was asked if the United States could win the war against terrorism that he had made the focus of his administration and the central

BUSH/ A8



WITH the powerful symbols of American democracy behind him, former New York City Mayor Rudy Guilliani addresses delegates to the Republican National Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York on Monday. AFP

RM Awards handed out sans GMA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PRESTIGIOUS Ramon Magsaysay Awards were handed out last night in formal ceremonies, albeit with the notable absence of the guest of honor, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It was learned during the ceremony that the President was in Malacañang presiding over a Cabinet workshop and that she was to inaugurate a bridge in Mandaluyong City afterward.

The awards, considered Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize, were handed out to six of this year's seven awardees who were present and to the representative of the seventh awardee who could not make it to the event.

The ceremonies turned emo-

RM AWARDS/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/01/04

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2004

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Side-by-side, Carl, Clarence leave hospital

By Rita Villadiego
Contributor

NEW YORK—For the first time, formerly conjoined Filipino twins Carl and Clarence Aguirre left the hospital as two separate boys, in the seats of a double stroller pushed by their mother to the cheers of hospital staff.

"Look at my boys, sitting side by side. This is what I have dreamed of for so long," said their mother Arlene. "Just look at them. They are gorgeous."

The 2-year-old boys, who were born joined at the tops of their heads, were successfully separated in a series of four milestone operations over a 10-month period at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) in this city.

The final operation resulting in their separation took place on Aug. 4, and yesterday the healthy, bright and feisty brothers left the CHAM ,for continuing physical and speech therapy at a facility in Valhalla in upstate New York.

Carl and Clarence traveled in separate ambulances with a police escort to the children's hospital they had been staying at between operations with their mother.

"This is a great day for Carl and Clarence, and a wonderful day for the staff at CHAM," said Dr. Peter Semzcuk, vice president of clinical services at the hospital.

"Carl and Clarence's successful separation demonstrates the clinical capabilities of our world-class children's hospital. We are proud to have had this opportunity to make such an important difference in the lives of these two fine boys," he added.

Carl and Clarence were seen off by CHAM staff, including the dozens of doctors, technicians and the team of dedicated nurses who had cared for them throughout the past year. A colorful 15-ft banner with happy wishes for the boys was decorated by pediatric patients and displayed from the third floor window at the hospital.

They were wheeled out of the hospital by Arlene and grandmother Evelyn Aguirre and their two lead surgeons, Drs. James Goodrich and David Staffenberg, as well as the boys' pediatrician, Dr. Robert Marion.

They rode side-by-side in a new double stroller, a gift from the MMC Pediatric Department, clutching teddy bears and other gifts from the staff.

Still heavily bandaged to protect their healing incisions, Carl and Clarence were dressed in bandanas imprinted with their names, and in CHAM T-shirts, dungarees and sneakers. The boys seemed to take all the attention and hoopla in typical two-year-old stride.

Their now side-by-side position afforded them some new diversions. On their way down, Carl and Clarence engaged in a little brotherly horseplay, kicking and pushing each other and trying to pull off the other's sneaker.

Old, new faces in GMA Cabinet take their oaths

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has re-appointed Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez and several other Cabinet officials who were not included in the first phase of the Cabinet revamp.

Soriquez was one of 29 Cabinet officials who took their oath before the President last night.

Former Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and other Cabinet officials had earlier said that Soriquez, who has a pending case in the Sandiganbayan in connection with the allegedly faulty construction of the FVR Megadike in Pampanga, was going to be replaced in the next wave of Cabinet changes that the President was supposed to announce last week.

Malacañang did not issue a statement about the reappointment of Soriquez and the other officials but released a list of those who were inducted into office last night at the end of a day-long Cabinet workshop on the President's 10-point program of government.

Aside from Soriquez, those who were reappointed and sworn into office last night were Secretaries Patricia Sto. Tomas (labor), Estrella Alabastro (science and technology), Leandro Mendoza (transportation), Corazon "Dinky" Soliman (social welfare), Teresita Deles (presidential adviser on the peace process), and Bayani Fernando (Metro Manila Development Authority chair).

The economic managers whom the President had earlier decided to retain also took their oaths yesterday—Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri. Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong was reportedly out of the country.

Vice President Noli de Castro was sworn in as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, presidential adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers and vice chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

The new Cabinet appointees who took their oaths were Secretaries Rene Villa (agrarian reform), Florencio Abad (education), Michael Defensor (environment), Raul Gonzalez (justice), Joseph Ace Durano (tourism), Ignacio Bunye (press), Rigoberto Tiglao (Presidential Management Staff), Merceditas Gutierrez (chief presidential legal counsel), Gabriel Claudio (political adviser), Edgardo Pamintuan (presidential adviser for constituency affairs), Conrado Limcaoco (Cabinet officer for provincial events), Cerge Remonde (government mass media group head), Saludo (Cabinet secretariat), Roberto Pagdanganan (Philippine International Trading Corp. president) and Augusto Syjuco (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority head).

Juliet Labog Javellana

Reconsider Iraq ban, US asks RP

THE UNITED States on Tuesday asked the Philippines to reconsider an order banning Filipinos from working in Iraq that was put in place after a Filipino truck driver was held hostage by Islamic militants.

The hostage, Angelo de la Cruz, was later released after intense negotiations but the issue pushed the Philippines to withdraw its humanitarian contingent from Iraq.

US Ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone, stressed Tuesday that Washington was "not making any demands" about the Philippines' foreign policy.

But he said there were some 4,000 Filipino workers in Iraq who were contributing to rebuilding the country and his government hoped that "others will be allowed to join them."

He said contractors hired by the US to transport food and supplies into Iraq from neighboring Kuwait wanted to hire Filipinos but were unable to do so.

"A suggestion is then, if the government could take a careful look at relaxing that ban in very specific circumstances," Ricciardone told ABS-CBN television.

"If government is satisfied that all reasonable (means) possible is being done to protect drivers or the workers... then that might be something that could be considered," he said.

Filipino workers should be allowed to make their own decisions, Ricciardone said.

"There are no guarantees (of safety), of course, in going to Iraq," he added. *AFP*

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6. Each SMS entry will receive an instant acknowledgement or winning notification via SMS and registered mail from Western Union.
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3. For your succeeding entries, simply text WEST<MTCN (Last seven digits only)>/<TRANSACTION AMOUNT>/ and send to 2966 for Globe/Touch Mobile subscribers or 3996 for Smart/Talk & Text/Addict Mobile subscribers. Ex.: WEST 1082680/5000
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DOT eyes 20M Sino tourists

By Jerome Aning

CHINA, here we come.

Newly appointed Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano is convinced the future of Philippine tourism lies in attracting the 20 million Chinese who travel abroad.

Last year, only a miniscule 0.2 percent of these Chinese tourists came to the Philippines, he said yesterday during simple turnover rites at the Department of Tourism.

Outgoing Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan was optimistic that under his successor, the DOT would achieve its target of 2.5 million tourist arrivals this year, surpassing last year's 1.9 million arrivals as well as the record-setting 2.22 million arrivals in 1997.

Pagdanganan, who was DOT chief for 190 days, reported that as of end of August, 1.5 million foreign tourists had arrived in the Philippines, with more expected as the Christmas season approaches.

Last month, the DOT opened a tourism office in the Chinese capital of Beijing so it could undertake a more coordinated and focused promotion of the Philippines and double the number of Chinese tourist arrivals by yearend.

Stressing the role of tourism in poverty alleviation and jobs creation, Durano said the role of the DOT was to create and facilitate partnerships with other government agencies and the private sector.

He added that the tourism industry required support services from the transportation department for access, the public works department for infrastructure, and the health department for public sanitation.

Meanwhile, Durano hinted of delays in the transfer of operations of the DOT from Manila to Cebu City, as the national government is plagued by a fiscal crisis.

"The pace of this policy would be determined by two factors: personnel welfare and budgetary requirements," he told reporters in an interview.

The transfer was President Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to decentralize and decongest Manila. Pagdanganan told the INQUIRER's Visayas Bureau that the move would push through this month.

The DOT would be spending P100 million for he construction of its building in Cebu and another P100 million for the transfer of its employees. This would affect 2,400 employees, although only half are expected to move to Cebu. A housing allowance of P5,000 would be given to the estimated 1,200, translating to about P6.5 million a month.

Aside from DOT's central office, its attached agencies, the Philippine Tourism Authority and the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. would also be moving to Cebu. The department would be using the ground floor of the Malacañang sa Sugbu, the erstwhile Cebu Customs Building, as temporary office.

GMA names Abes GSIS chair

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed Bernardino Abes as new chair of the Government Service Insurance System's board of trustees.

Abes replaces Hermogenes Concepcion who retired in June.

A Palace statement said that the President was acting to "quickly fill the vacuum in the top leadership of the state insurance firm."

The Malacañang statement said Abes was a lawyer with "extensive experience in labor relations and administration, banking, the academe, insurance and pension fund management."

Abes previously served as presidential adviser on legislative affairs, head of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office and Social Security System chair in 2001. He also headed the President's search committee, which recommended appointees to various government posts.

Abes' appointment as GSIS chair is a homecoming of sorts as he held the position from 1963 to 1965 during the administration of Ms Arroyo's father, President Diosdado Macapagal. He also served as labor secretary from 1962 to1964.

He has also held various positions in the private sector, having served as director of Union Bank, First Philippine Holdings, Philex Mining Corp. and Petron Corp. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Artist should be consulted, says expert

By Fe B. Zamora

OUT OF courtesy and respect, art restorers and conservationists are required to consult with the original artist—if he is still alive—before they could even think of touching his art work.

This is accepted practice among artists and restorers here and abroad, restoration expert architect Rey Inovero told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"If the artist has passed on, the previous restorers must be consulted," he said.

Inovero, chief of the Historical Preservation Division at the National Historical Institute (NHI), said it was important "to preserve the authenticity of a work of art. What's best is when the artist and restorer collaborate."

Another accepted practice among restorers is to conserve what's left of the art piece which had been exposed to damage either by natural or man-made causes.

"But it is only the artist who can put another impression," he stressed.

The INQUIRER sought Inovero's opinion after muralist Nemesio "Nemi" Miranda Jr. had complained that the restoration of his work, a depiction of the first Edsa Revolution, was undertaken without his permission or guidance.

Miranda said the mural, executed in oil pastel and monochrome shades, lost its tonal value and depth as a result of the retouching, and about 60 percent of the original piece was "completely altered."

The most horrific part, he said, was the loss of vital details on his "visual interpretation" of the 1986 People Power revolution.

Among the details lost was the portion showing the front page of the Feb. 26, 1986 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which headlined the departure of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Miranda had earlier asked to meet with the restoration team "to thresh out issues and find a solution to the problem." But his request, aired more than two weeks ago, seemed to have fallen on deaf ears.

Last week, Fr. Gabriel Casal, director of the Archdiocesan Archives of Manila, whose team did the restoration, defended the work.

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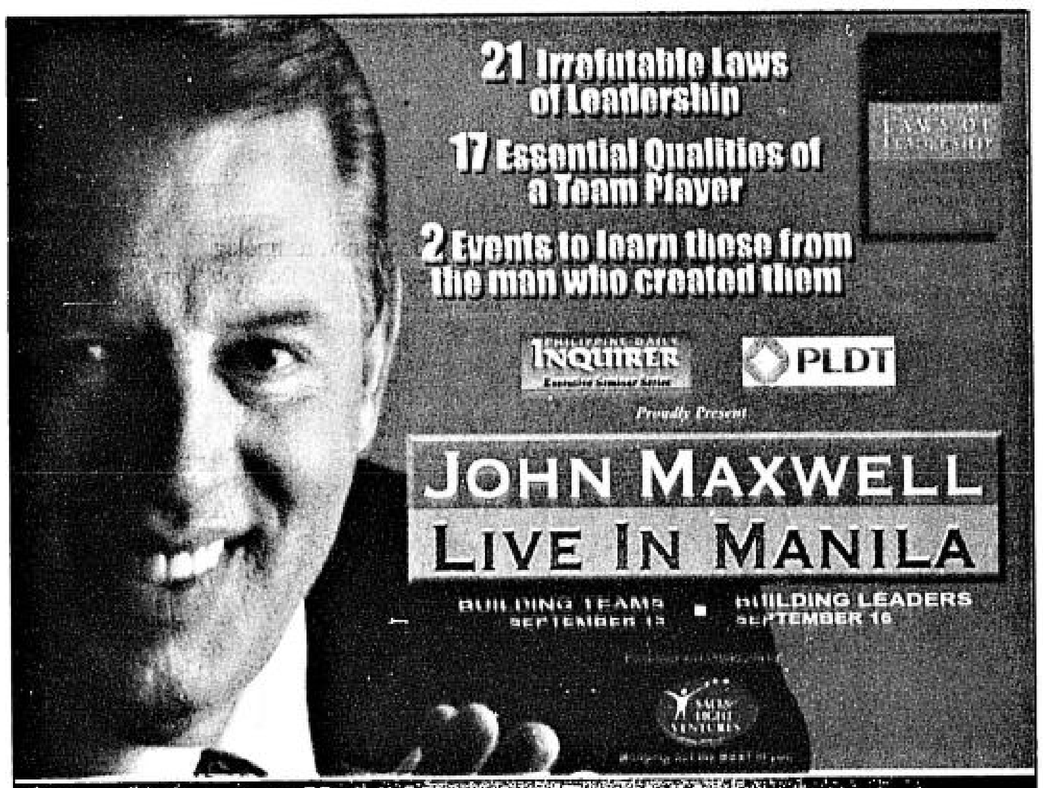
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MILF seen provoking military

By Alcuin Papa

THE MILITARY said it would file a complaint against the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front for truce violations after a large group of MILF fighters gathered near a military detachment in Sultan Kudarat on Monday ahead of the proposed resumption of peace talks, a military official said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, who heads the government side in the joint panel monitoring the 13-month-old ceasefire, said about 200 MILF guerrillas had moved into the village of Camanga near the town of Isulan on Monday.

He said the show of force could have sparked a fire-fight with government troops had the MILF representatives in the coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities (CCCH) not intervened and driven the rebels out of the area.

The military declined to say what triggered the sudden rebel movement, but it followed an armed clash last week near the town of Mamasapano.

The CCCH monitoring teams are meeting to try to defuse the situation ahead of planned peace talks in Malaysia, Yano told reporters.

Talks are ongoing "to avert any further hostilities because we also have troops deployed very near the area," Yano said.

"It's too close for comfort. There could be a shoot-out," he said.

Yano said he immediately contacted his MILF counterpart in the CCCH, Benjie Midtimbang, after receiving reports from Camanga residents about the MILF movement. He said Midtimbang immediately proceeded to the area with other CCCH representatives to ask the rebels to pull out.

"We still don't know the reason (for the massing up in the area) but they willingly vacated the area, relocated and went back to their respective residences," Yano said.

Military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said the rebels, headed by a certain Zainudin Sindatok, also known as Commander Haon, completed their pull-out at around 3:30 p.m. yesterday. The rebels withdrew to the Maguindanao towns of Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Mamasapano, Maganoy and Datu Unsay Ampatuan.

Soldiers who were deployed near the rebels' position were also pulled out by their commanders, Lucero said.

Yano said the military would file the complaint before the CCCH, the joint committee where complaints against violations of the ceasefire, which had been broken repeatedly in the past, were brought and threshed out.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the military's reaction was "exaggerated," claiming that the rebels were not in Camangan to "wage war" with the military.

He explained that an MILF commander residing in the village came into conflict with some residents and that the MILF rebels were sent to Camanga to maintain peace.

Reds have killed 91 civilians so far

By Alcuin Papa

A TOTAL of 91 civilians were killed this year by the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, the military announced yesterday.

In a statement released to media, Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Information Office chief Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said the civilians were killed as a result of "nefarious activities" staged by communist rebels from January 1 to August 23.

Most of the civilian casualties were reported in the Bicol Region or Region V, followed by Central Luzon, the Southern Tagalog region, and Regions XIII, XVI and XVII.

Lucero said a total of 142 atrocities were committed by the rebels during this period against civilians. They included: 86 liquidations, 15 kidnappings, 14 robberies and holdups and one bombing incident. There were 26 attacks against privately owned companies, with damage amounting to P66.2 million. The Western Visayas region was a favorite target and suffered P42 million in damage.

"Statistics showed that the CPP-NPA had been aggressive in using terrorism as a tool to air its political message," Lucero said.

He added that the AFP was calling on the CPP-NPA leadership "to refrain from targeting noncombatants and civilians if it wants its name deleted from the terrorists' list."

Officials earlier said the attacks against economic targets were in support of the guerrillas' efforts to extort money to finance their movement, after the terror tag cut off funding from sympathetic groups abroad.

The rebels indefinitely postponed planned peace talks with the government in Norway last week. They are trying to pressure Manila to prevail on Washington and its allies to remove the CPP-NPA from the blacklist. *With AFP*

Corrections

IN THE Aug. 4 issue, a front-page story on the youngest Harvard law graduate, Kiwi Camara, quoted his uncle Jorge as saying that Augusto Camara, Kiwi's grandfather, graduated from UP with a 1.06 average, "the highest (ever recorded)." UP records show that Exequiel S. Sevilla — the late father of Inquirer columnist Aida Sevilla-Mendoza — also graduated summa cum laude from the university with a perfect 1.0 average in 1927.

* * *

IN THE Aug. 31 issue, a Metro story on Page A17– "Drug suspect escapes from jail guards" – misstated the name of the accused drug dealer. He is Maurillo Reyes Marcelo– not Marcelo Reyes.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Aglipay skirts Napolcom directive

By Christian V. Esguerra

PHILIPPINE National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay said the revamp of police offices will go on as scheduled this week despite the National Police Commission's directive to scrap the five new positions he had created.

Instead of establishing "area police offices" (APOs), Aglipay will create task forces, apparently to avoid the legal impediments identified by the Napolcom, the policy-making body of the PNP.

The task forces will function as the planned APOs, tasked to coordinate internal security matters among regional police offices under their jurisdiction, Aglipay said.

The task forces will be patterned after the area commands of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We want to enhance coordination among all regions, including that between the PNP and AFP in terms of terrorism and other important matters," Aglipay said.

The Napolcom junked the APO proposal because congressional action would be needed to set them up. The decision threatened to set back the revamp of the police force that Aglipay was to announce this week.

"Being area supervisors is just an additional job for regional directors, a sacrifice on their part," Aglipay told reporters.

"They'll be using the same funds and the same staff. There will be no extra cost. We'll just improve the management of the PNP," he said.

In the proposed revamp, Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon director, will take charge of the Zamboanga region (Region IX) and supervise Socsargen (Region XII) and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Chief Supt. Oscar de la Torre is expected to replace Querol as head and area supervisor of Central and northern Luzon.

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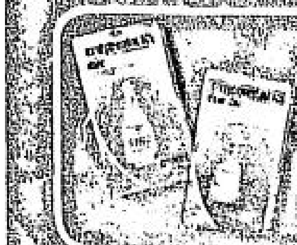

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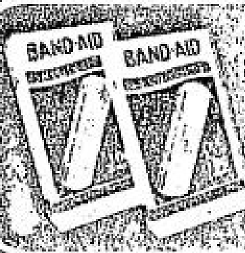

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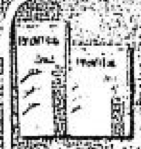

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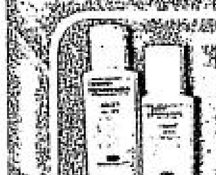

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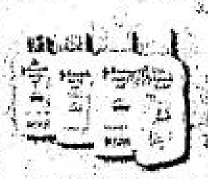

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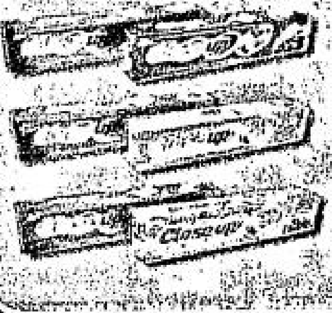

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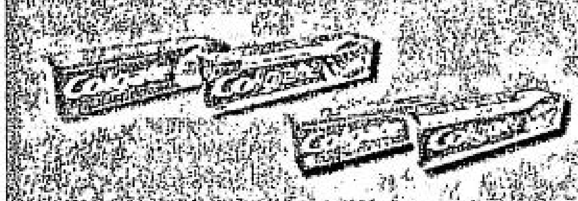

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Another Filipino dies in Beirut plunge

By TJ Burgonio and Martin P. Marfil

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday denounced the death and possible sexual assault of a Filipino domestic helper in Lebanon as he ordered the Philippine Embassy in that country to "get to the bottom" of the incident.

A reportedly troubled Hera Olandres fell to her death from the balcony of her agent's apartment building in Beirut on Aug. 24, more than seven months after she arrived to work as a domestic helper, Department of Foreign Affairs officials said.

A postmortem showed she had vaginal and anal lacerations and other physical injuries "consistent with sexual assault," the officials said.

Her alleged illegal recruiter in the Philippines, identified only as Liezl, was arrested last Wednesday by agents of the Presidential Anti-illegal Recruitment Task Force headed by Director Reynaldo Jaylo after the victim's family lodged a complaint.

"I condemn in the strongest possible terms all those responsible for this tragedy," said Romulo at a press briefing. "You deserve nothing less than the heaviest penalty mandated by law."

Romulo also directed the embassy in Beirut to exhaust all legal and diplomatic means "to get to the bottom of the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Ms Olandres."

The Lebanese agent's husband, Mohamad Khalil, and 15-year-old son had been taken into custody by the authorities in Beirut and subjected to laboratory tests for "possible complicity," the DFA officials said.

Olandres arrived in Beirut on Jan. 19. She was observed to have been "lonely and reserved," the officials said.

Headaches

On Aug. 22, her employer brought her to her Beirut-based recruiter, the Lala Agency owned by May Khalil, after she had complained of headaches for several days.

Two days later, at around 2:30 a.m., two other overseas workers saw Olandres rise from her bed and walk toward the balcony on the sixth floor of the building where Khalil lived. Neighbors alerted firemen when they saw her perched on the balcony ledge.

After a one-and-a-half hour standoff, Olandres fell from the balcony just as a fireman tried to grab her, the officials said.

She was the fourth Filipino to fall to her death in Lebanon this year. The others were Louella Susan Lacdo-o Montenegro who died on Feb. 25, Catherine Bautista on May 3 and Luz Pacu-an on May 16.

Government neglect

The death of Olandres is a clear manifestation of government neglect, a militant workers group said yesterday.

Worse, Migrante said, Olandres' family will not get a centavo as she had been illegally recruited.

According to Migrante chair Connie Bragas-Regalado, the case of Olandres is "prime evidence that the Philippine government has not taken steps to address the horrendous plight of OFWs in Lebanon."

Migrante recalled that the Philippine Embassy in Beirut had sent Montenegro, Bautista and Pacu-an back to their abusive employers after they had sought help.

"This shows the government does not care if its citizens get bludgeoned, raped and killed on the altar of labor export," Bragas-Regalado said.

Officials to stay

Meanwhile, the Dole yesterday said it would not pull its officials out of Lebanon despite the death of Olandres unless the DFA recommended it.

Undersecretary Danilo Cruz said labor attaché Liddy Tañedo and welfare officer Manuela Peña will remain at their posts until the DFA submits a report to Dole.

Cruz said the DFA had earlier sent a fact-finding team to Lebanon to investigate the deaths of the three Filipinos who had fallen to their deaths in separate incidents.

Yesterday, Cruz admitted the Dole had not yet received the DFA report.

"We have to go through a process... We have not received the report of the DFA regarding negligence of embassy officials," he said, adding that their [next] move would depend on the recommendations.

Wanted: Older maids

SINGAPORE—Singapore will raise the minimum age and schooling requirements for foreign maids ahead of an expected influx of Asian domestic workers due to lower levies, press reports said Monday.

"We have about 150,000 maids. We expect this number to rise significantly because about 50 percent of households benefit from these (lowered) levies," local newspaper Today quoted Manpower Minister Ng Eng Hen as saying.

Addressing local media over the weekend, the minister, whose office handles work permits for foreign domestics, said many maids are young village girls with little schooling, and "they're not used to city living."

Singapore is tightening the rules because it expects more families to hire maids after government levies for hiring domestics were lowered as part of incentives aimed at convincing couples to have more babies.

Most Singaporeans live in high-rise apartment buildings. Maids usually come from rural areas of Indonesia, the Philippines and South Asian countries. *AFP*

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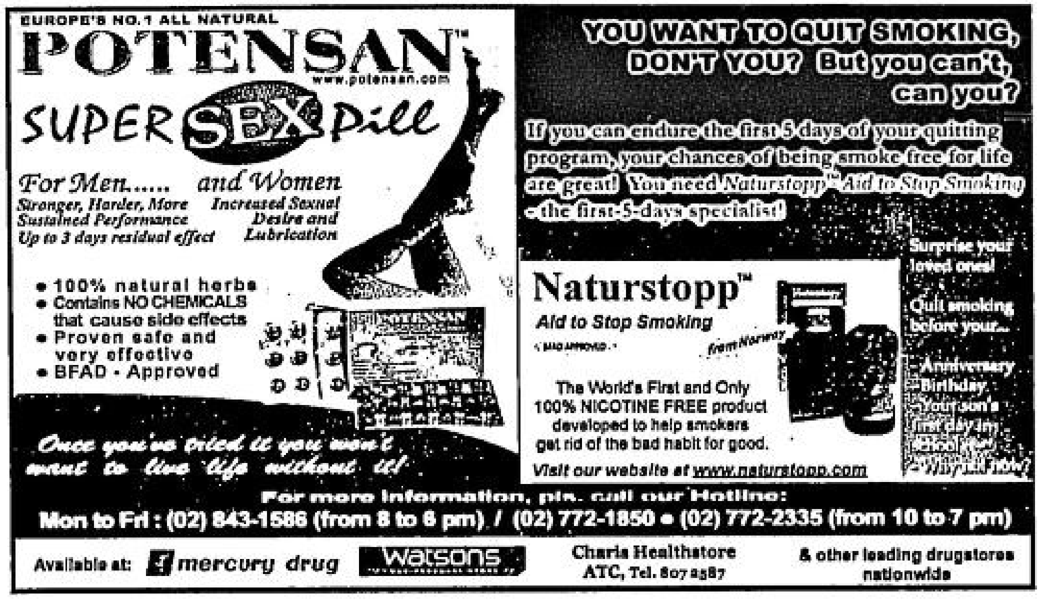
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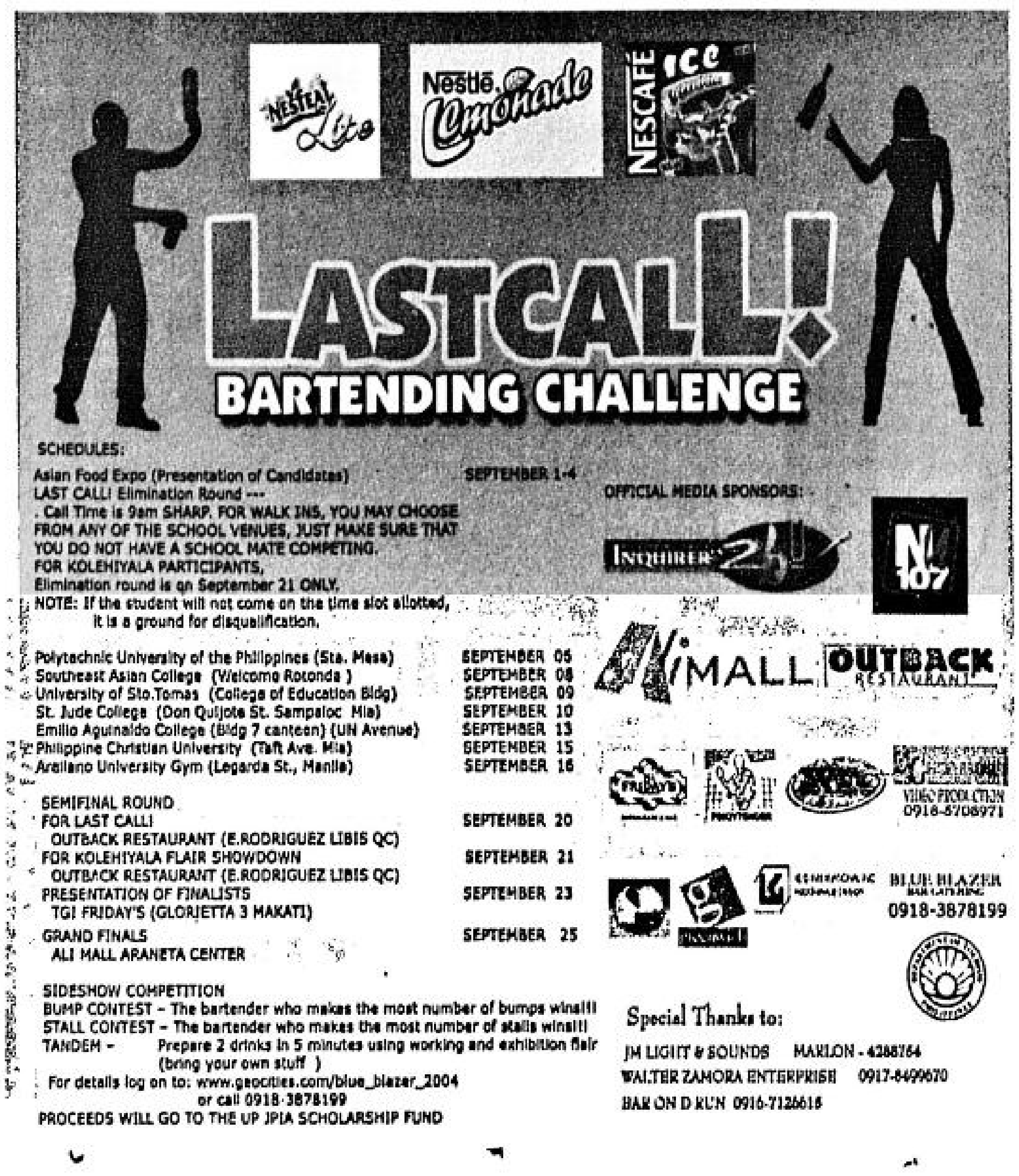
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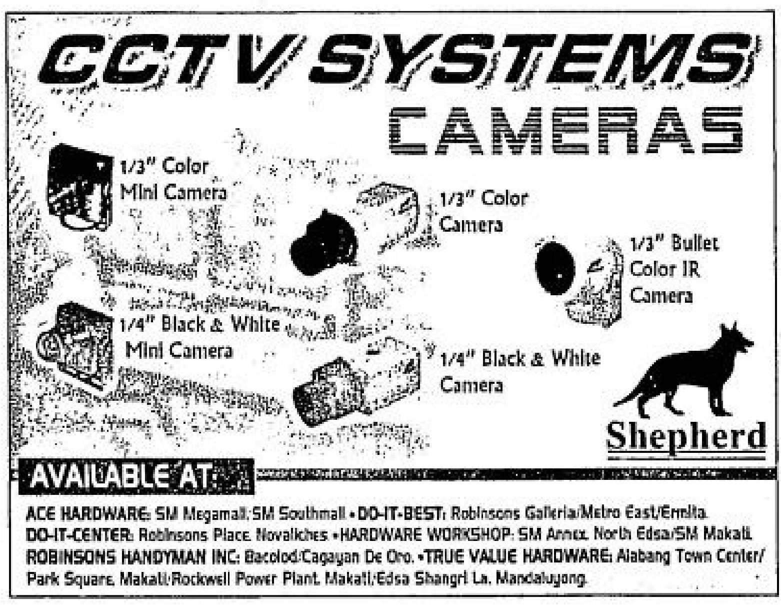
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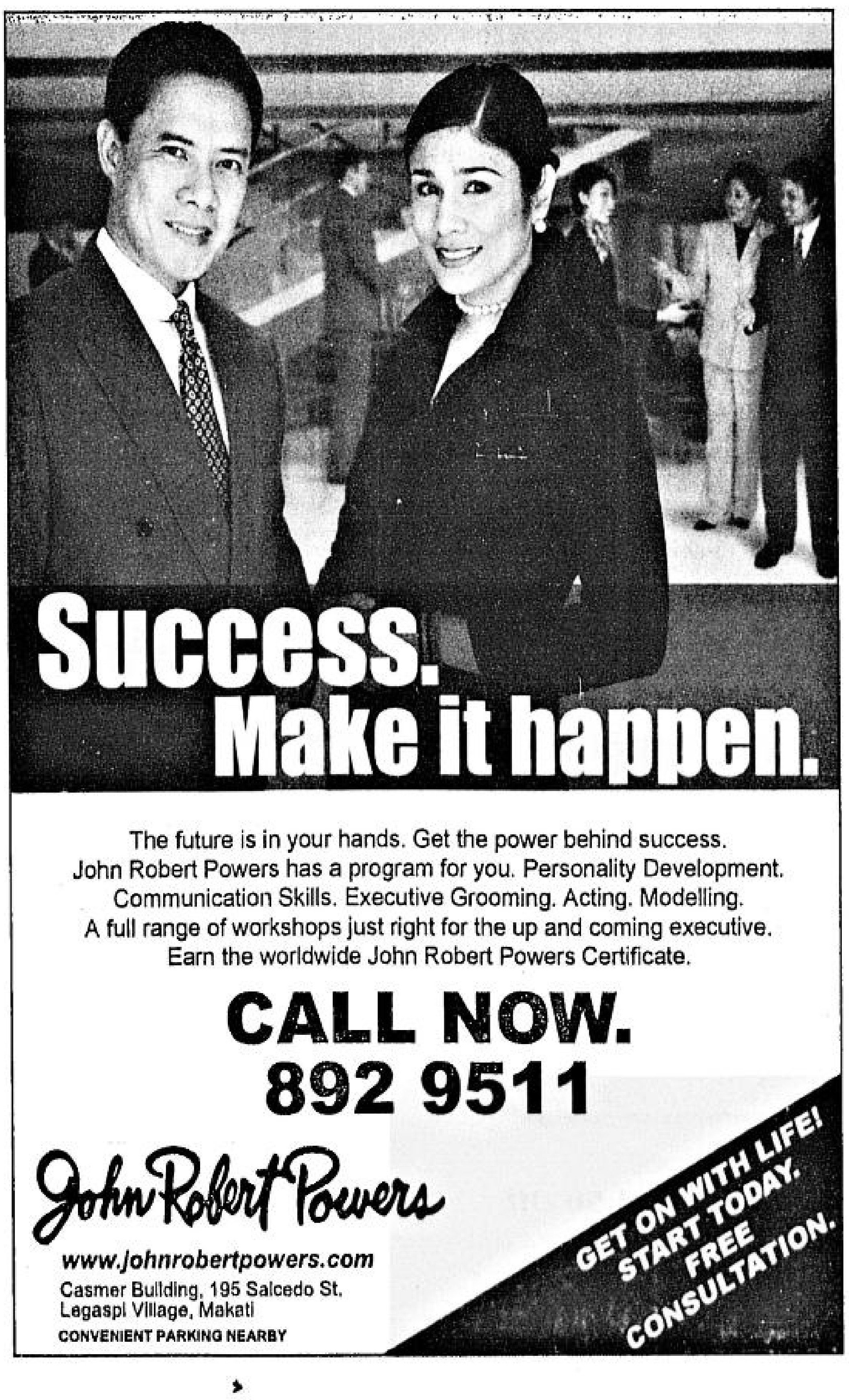
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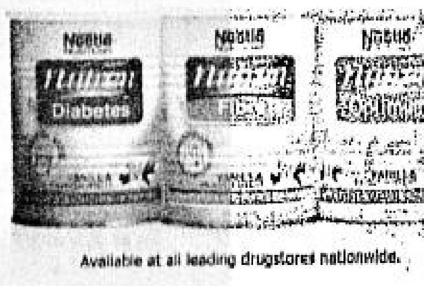

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RM Awards handed out sans GMA

From page A1

tional toward the end when the daughter of Dr. Jiang Yanyong of China, who was reportedly barred from leaving the country, came on stage last to tearfully accept her father's award.

Dr. Jiang was the honoree for public service for his courage in speaking out against his government's cover-up of the SARS epidemic in China in 2002.

"How I wish at this moment it is not I but my father who is here on this stage. It is a pity that my father is unable to receive this award," said his daughter Jiang Rui, who is based in the United States.

"This award is not only to honor him but it is also given to recognize his courage in speaking the truth and encourage him to continue to speak the truth. This award not only encouraged my father, but numerous Chinese people as well," she said, to warm applause.

Until last Friday, organizers had thought Jiang would not be able to send a representative to receive his award.

The other awardees were Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac, for government service; Thai farmer Prayong Ronnarong, for community leadership; writer Abdullah Abu Sayeed from Bangladesh, for journalism, literature and creative communication arts; Ibn Abdur Rehman of Pakistan and Laxminarayan Ramdas of India, for peace and international understanding, and Filipino Benjamin Abadiano, for emergent leadership.

Rehman, India's former navy chief turned peace advocate, inadvertently called attention to President Arroyo's absence when he expressed his admiration for her.

Speaking out against nuclear weapons, Rehman said: "The role of the military must also not remain static. It must trim its sails in keeping with the times. Your President Madame Arroyo's own courageous decision to pull back your troops from Iraq has been acclaimed the world over. While this might have made her unpopular with a few, it has gained her many friends and admirers including myself."

Yorac received the longest applause when her name was called. She acknowledged this with a smile.

Her citation said she kept the public's confidence in government "through service of exceptional integrity and rigor and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law."

"I feel humbled by this recognition because I did not do it alone," Yorac said. "There are so many other unsung public servants who have made their respective contributions in making public office truly a public trust."

Lim is 4th senator to give up entire pork

From page A1

Panfilo Lacson and Joker Arroyo.

Other senators are to meet in caucus in two weeks' time to come up with a common stand on what to do with the pork barrel in view of the deepening fiscal crisis.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had urged members of Congress to cut their pork barrel next year to help the government reduce the budget deficit.

Members of Congress receive a total of P20 billion in pork barrel every year—P70 million for each member of the House of Representatives and P200 million for each senator.

Lacson, who gave up his pork barrel since 2002, told reporters that he was hopeful that more senators would join his "pork-less club."

"I hope this will snowball in the Senate that senators would give up the whole caboodle, the whole amount ," he said.

Housewife consensus

At the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. urged the senators to complement the effort of House members to cut their pork barrel allocation for next year by 38 percent.

De Venecia admitted that there were still many House members who were objecting to the cut in their PDAF and the Public Works Fund, both known as pork barrel, from P70 million to P40 million for this year.

But he said the approval was only "in principle" and that it would still be subject to plenary approval by the House.

"We are still trying to gain 'housewife' consensus, because it's not easy. The ones who will get hurt are our constituents, but as I've said, all of us have decided to set an example," he said.

De Venecia said the nation must be saved first. "Because by saving the nation, we save our parliamentary districts. Of what use to our villages, towns if the government collapses? Then we have nothing to gain."

But opposition congressmen questioned De Venecia's announcement of a pork cut, saying only a few congressmen were left at the end of the all-party caucus the other day when the cut was discussed with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico (LDP, 5th dist., Iloilo) said the emerging sentiment in the caucus was in fact against any cut.

Lacson wondered how the congressmen came up with the 38-percent cut in their pork barrel.

"Why not 40 or 50 percent?" he asked.

Even so, the Senate is taking its own sweet time in tackling the proposed cut in the pork barrel.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said yesterday the chamber should not be rushed into deciding on the proposals to cut the pork of senators.

"There's no rush," said Magsaysay, who stressed that senators had until October to decide on the issue.

Magsaysay, who has no qualms about slashing the PDAF allocations in the proposed 2005 budget, said some meaningful projects intended to benefit the people would be derailed, or shelved, once the entire P20 billion in pork barrel was scrapped.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said that senators would meet in caucus in two weeks to discuss how the country should deal with the fiscal crisis. They would take up the two resolutions seeking to cut the pork barrel.

He was talking about the resolution he filed with nine senators for a 50-percent reduction in the pork barrel and the resolution of Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. urging senators to give up their pork.

"We hope to be able to reach a consensus on the different resolutions on the Priority Development Assistance Fund." Pangilinan told reporters.

Eliminate all pork

Senate Minority Leader Aqulino Pimentel Jr. said opposition senators had no official stand on the issue yet.

He said the opposition was planning to file a joint resolution that would seek to reduce the national budget and "eliminate" all kinds of pork barrel there.

Pimentel said the resolution would propose the deletion of all discretionary items and intelligence funds except those for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation.

"Also, we want to suggest that all pork of the President, the Cabinet members and legislators would be deleted. How will we go about this? By going through line budgeting," he said.

Under the line budgeting approach, one cannot realign the allocations because this would amount to technical malversation," he said.

Pimentel said the resolution would also propose that all revenues of government be deposited in the National Treasury.

"That means Pagcor funds and all other funds not deposited to the NT," he said.

His counterpart in the House said opposition congressmen would also propose a cut in the pork barrel allocation of Ms Arroyo.

As a matter of courtesy, the President's budget was spared in past budget hearings, said House Minority Leader Francis Escudero (NPC, 1st dist., Sorsogon.)

"I hope observing courtesy will not be applied. Let's forget about these courtesies. It's not being impolite to cut the President's pork," he said.

Describing the internal budget of the House of Representatives as the "mother of all pork," Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno yesterday called for the opening of the financial books of the chamber.

Puno lamented the "apparent hypocrisy of House leaders, who openly call for austerity measures but are conspicuously silent about how taxpayers' money has been spent by the House."

"We have to do more in deeds than in words. Prudence and transparency should begin here at the House," Puno said.

De Venecia and other administration congressmen quickly accepted Puno's challenge.

De Venecia said that House finances were managed well that it even returned P50 million in savings to the treasury last June. "We're the first agency of government to turn over savings," he said.

Internal budget

The House has a yearly internal budget of P2.8 billion to cover salaries of House members and staff, maintenance and operating expenses, travel and other items.

The amount is separate from the P70 million in pork barrel received by each House member.

"For a long time now, the entire House has been tainted by allegations of corruption and malfeasance. Now is the time to refute all these allegations so that the institution can regain the trust and respect of the public," Puno said.

Puno is the head of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, the personal party of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and one of the principal political strategists of Ms Arroyo in the May 2004 elections.

Lakas and Kampi had been sniping at each other even before the 13th Congress opened for business in July. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo*

'Kabayan' is caretaker while GMA is in China

From page A1

named yesterday "government caretaker" during Ms Arroyo's absence. The President is leaving at 6 this morning and is scheduled to be back at 11:30 p.m. on Friday.

"The President told (Executive) Secretary Eduardo Ermita at around 4 o'clock (yesterday) that the Vice President will be the caretaker," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Ms Arroyo relayed her instruction to Ermita during a daylong Cabinet workshop which she conducted yesterday for the entire Cabinet, including De Castro.

As caretaker, however, De Castro may have nothing more than a largely symbolic presence in Malacañang.

He cannot sign papers, appointments or contracts and is expected to perform his temporary designation "in coordination" with Ermita.

De Castro is expected to join the meetings of the caretaker committee—not inside Malacañang Palace but at the Presidential Guesthouse, which serves as the office of the executive secretary.

But De Castro is not about to complain.

He said he expected Ms Arroyo to still be on top of the government's day-to-day operations even while she was in Beijing.

"You know that you can run things now by remote control but, of course, if we are given a role, we are ready for it," De Castro told the INQUIRER by phone.

Although he was seated right next to the President during the workshop, De Castro, as of 2 p.m. yesterday, had yet to be told that he would be the caretaker.

The Vice President has traditionally been designated caretaker whenever the Chief Executive goes on a foreign trip.

The term "caretaker" is used because the title "acting President" would connote giving the Vice President more powers than just housekeeping.

In her previous term, Ms Arroyo had named then Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. caretaker even at the height of their falling out. Usually, in her absence, Ms Arroyo is often in touch with her executive secretary, the "little president," who gives her daily updates on the situation in the country.

Ms Arroyo, who had said she wanted De Castro to be her bridge to the poor, had promised to give him an office in Malacañang.

But, so far, De Castro still works out of the Office of the Vice President at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

Using his mass appeal and affinity with the masses, De Castro also serves as Ms Arroyo's "co-host" in her weekly "Pulong Bayan," or townhall meetings. where she discusses her priority programs with a select audience.

Ms Arroyo has given De Castro two concurrent positions in the Cabinet—as head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and presidential adviser on overseas Fiipino workers. He was set to take his oath as HUDCC chair yesterday, along with other new appointees to the Cabinet.

Ms Arroyo is to leave for China via a chartered Philippine Airlines plane, accompanied by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, some members of the Cabinet and leaders of business.

Before going to Beijing, she will make a brief stopover in Guangzhou to receive a briefing on how the Chinese government handled the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak last year.

Her state visit will include a meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and former President Jiang Zemin, who still wields power as chair of the Central Military Commission.

Bush says war on terror can't be won

From page A1

thrust of his reelection campaign.

"I don't think you can win it," Bush replied. "But I think you can create conditions so that those who use terror as a tool are less acceptable in parts of the world."

As recently as May 14, Bush had drawn a far sunnier picture. "People say, 'Can you win the war on terror?'" the president said in Niles, Mich. "Of course we can."

It was unclear if Bush had meant to make the remark, or if he misspoke. But White House officials said Bush was not signaling a change in policy, and they sought to explain his statement by saying he was emphasizing the long-term nature of the struggle.

Taken at their face value, however, Bush's words would put him closer to the positions of the European allies, who do not consider the war winnable and have long considered Bush's talk of victory as simplistic and unhelpful rhetoric.

Democrats

Democrats wasted no time making the most of Bush's remarks.

"First George W. Bush said he miscalculated the war in Iraq, then he called it a catastrophic success and blamed the military," Kerry spokesperson Allison Dobson jeered. "Now he says we can't win the war on terror. Is that what (chief Bush political strategist) Karl Rove means when he calls for steady leadership?"

"What if President Reagan had said that it may be difficult to win the war against communism? What if other presidents had said it'd be difficult to win the war— the Cold War?" Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards said on ABC-TV's "Nightline" program. "The war on terrorism is absolutely winnable."

Bush's words sent aides scrambling to clarify, taking attention away from the carefully crafted convention and the president's appearances in one battleground state after another.

On Monday, as Bush campaigned in the must-win states of New Hampshire and Michigan, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said that what Bush had meant was that the war on terror would not be won "in the conventional sense" with formal surrenders or treaties signed.

McClellan said Bush's statement was no different from others he made in the past.

The Bush campaign professed not to be worried that the president had gone off-message.

"The American people have watched the president lead the war on terror decisively for three years," Bush-Cheney spokesperson Steve Schmidt said. "The people of this country know what his leadership is."

Politically dangerous

But Bill Carrick, a California-based Democratic consultant, said the comments—even if they were merely unfortunately phrased expressions of mostly obvious truths—were politically dangerous because they spoke to the very heart of the president's reelection pitch.

"The foundation of his remaining popularity has always been 9/11 and the war on terror," he said. "The perception . . . is that he is steady and strong," Carrick said.

He saw no hypocrisy in Democrats playing the issue to the hilt, even though they had cried foul over similar attacks on Kerry. For instance, Vice President Dick Cheney criticized Kerry for saying he could fight "a more effective, more thoughtful, more strategic, more proactive, more sensitive war on terror" by singling out for mockery his use of the word "sensitive."

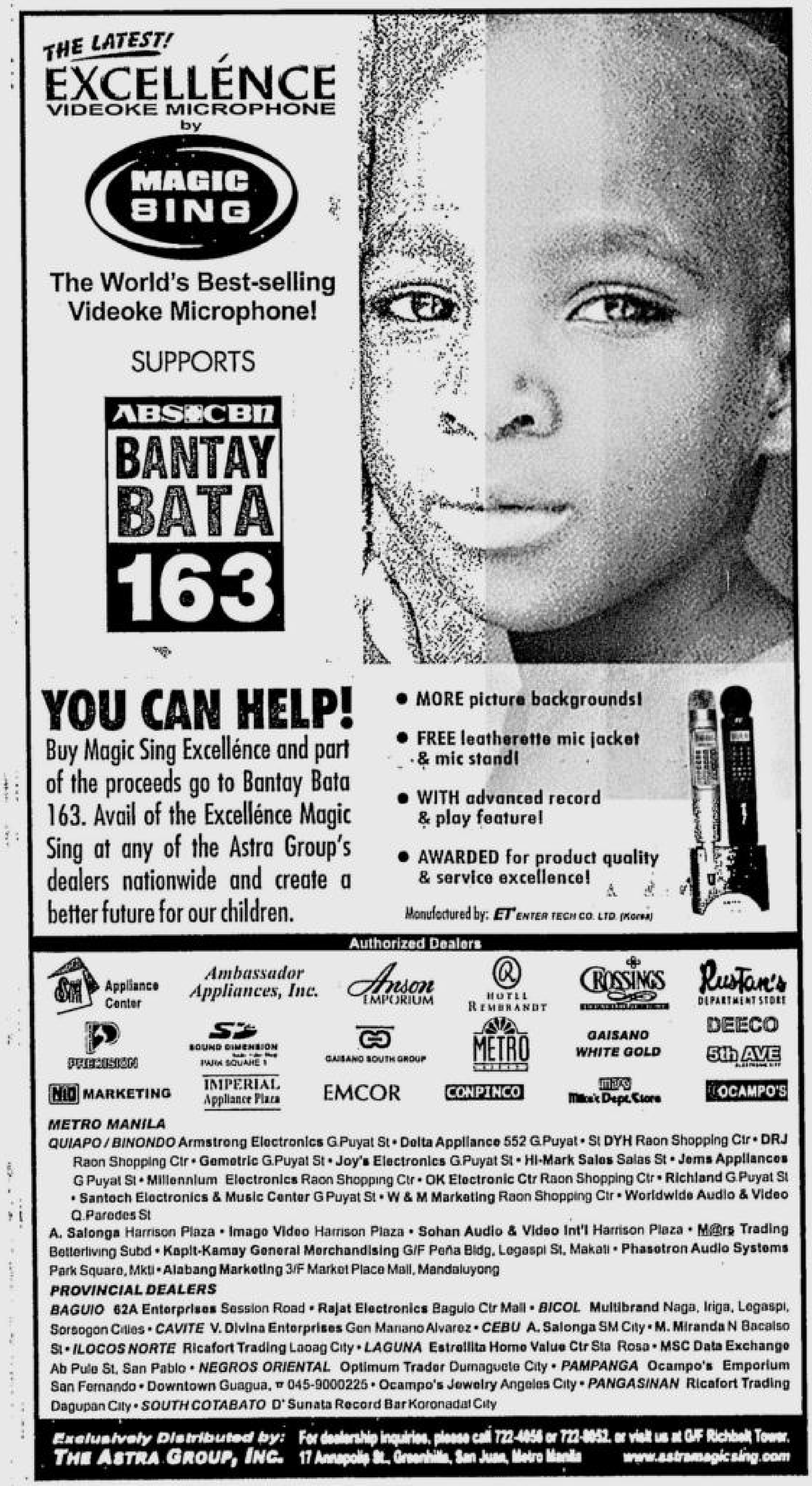
"Turnabout is fair play on this," Carrick said. "Exploit this to the hilt."

Analysts said Bush's comment reflected both foreign policy and political realities, and appeared intended in part to stress that even a dramatic breakthrough, like the capture of Osama bin Laden, would not by itself assure the nation's security.

"From the start it's been clear that we're dealing with an ideological struggle that affects a region, and not just a single movement or group," said Anthony Cordesman, a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"It's certainly clear from what has happened in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in Pakistan for that matter, as well as in countries like Spain, that even al-Qaida cannot be defeated quickly or easily. And Iraq didn't transform Iraq, much less the Middle East."

On Tuesday, Bush continues his pre-convention barnstorming, traveling to Nashville, Tennessee, to speak to the national convention of the American Legion and to Alleman, Iowa, to attend a farm show. He ends the long day of campaigning in another crucial state, Pennsylvania, where he makes a late-evening appearance at a picnic before returning to Washington. *Reports by The New York Times and AP*



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DOH scored for stand on population

By Blanche S. Rivera

POPULATION management advocates yesterday expressed alarm for the Department of Health's apparent lack of concern over the country's population problem.

The Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) said the government would find it more difficult to provide social services if it did not acknowledge that the Philippines needed to rein in its population.

PLCPD executive director Roberto Ador said this policy would ultimately work against the poor who need social and economic services the most.

"There are already tell-tale signs [such as] poor health services, education, etc. The more we dilly-dally in solving the population problem, the more we'll see the worsening of the poverty situation," Ador said in a phone interview.

The population now stands at 84 million with four babies born every minute. Experts say that by the time President Macapagal-Arroyo finishes her term in 2010, there will be 12.6 more Filipinos.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit had said it was not the DOH's job to control the population by promoting contraceptives, while stressing that the government can address the needs of the present population.

"I think it's like the looming fiscal crisis. They're still in a state of denial now about the population problem," said Marissa Camacho-Reyes, president of the Philippine Center for Population and Development.

Reyes said that while it was true that the DOH could not dictate the size of Filipino families, it was responsible for educating the people and making all options, including artificial methods of family planning, available to them.

She said that depriving the people of contraceptives would affect mainly the poor who cannot afford to buy these but have the biggest need for them.

Studies have shown that there are around 2.5 million Filipino women who would like to limit the number of their children or space their pregnancies but who do not know how to go about it.

Population advocates say this unmet need for family planning could result in more abortions every year.

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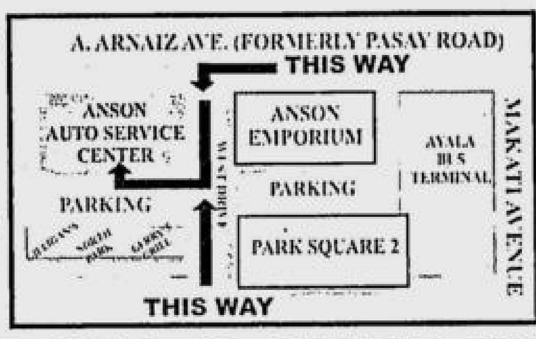

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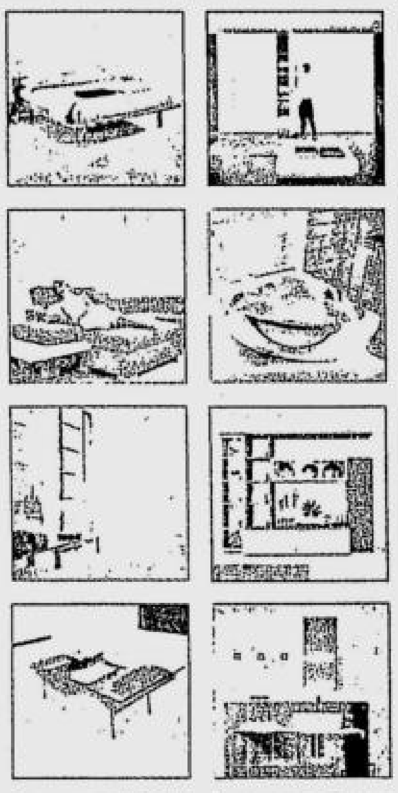

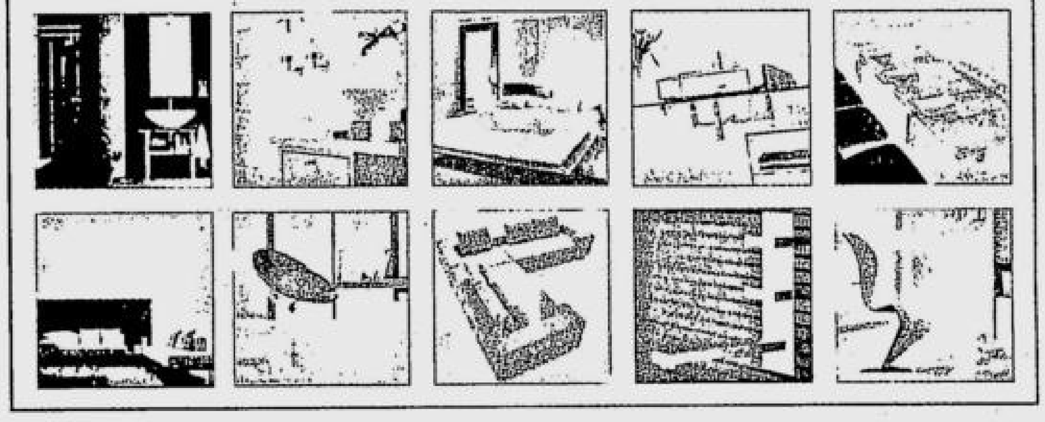

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Republicans turn to 9/11 for Bush reelection

NEW YORK—Ignoring warnings not to make political capital out of Sept. 11, US Republicans did just that going into day two of their convention on Tuesday aimed at sending George W. Bush back to the White House.

Just a few miles from Ground Zero, where the 2001 attacks toppled the World Trade Center, the Republican party kicked off its four-day gala on Monday with an emotional appeal that stirred up memories of the worst attack ever on US soil.

Sen. John McCain, former New York Mayor Rudoph Giuliani and a host of other speakers hailed Bush as a strong leader who deserved another four-year term to continue his post-9/11 war on global terrorism.

Many also sharpened their knives for Democratic challenger John Kerry, portraying him as a fickle and waffling politician who consistently had found a way to be on both sides of every issue.

McCain, respected by many Americans for his service in the Vietnam War, hailed Bush's leadership since the attacks and dismissed any suggestion that his fight against terrorism was unjustified.

"We are engaged in a hard struggle against a cruel and determined adversary. Our enemies have made clear the danger they pose to our security and to the very essence of our culture—liberty," McCain told the convention.

"Only the most deluded of us could doubt the necessity of this war," he said in a speech repeatedly interrupted by applause. "President Bush deserves not only our support, but our admiration."

While McCain held off from personally attacking Kerry, other speakers ridiculed the Democratic senator from Massachusetts.

"This is no time to pick a leader who is weak on the war and wrong on taxes," said Dennis Hastert, Republican speaker of the House of Representatives.

Giuliani said Bush's reaction to the attacks had already "earned (him) a place in our history as a great American president," while also taking repeated swipes at Kerry.

"People in public office at times do change their minds," Giuliani said. "But John Kerry has made it the rule to change his position, rather than the exception."

The symbolism of the 9/11 attacks carry great weight for Bush, and the administration has said it has intelligence that al-Qaida may want to strike again before the election.

A high-tech intelligence analysis center with staff drawn from 20 agencies opened in New York last week to guard against the possibility of terrorist attacks.

SWAT teams in all-black riot gear, secret service agents, New York police and other security personnel have turned the normally bustling area around Madison Square Garden into a virtual fortress.

The Republicans featured a constant stream of other reminders of the attacks, including Tara Stackpole, whose fireman husband died in the twin towers disaster and whose son is heading to Iraq. *AFP*

Filmmaker gets booed at GOP convention

NEW YORK—The Republican national convention thunderously booed filmmaker Michael Moore and his anti-George Bush documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" when it was mentioned in a speech on the floor on Monday.

As Moore looked on from the press gallery, Sen. John McCain took the film to task while defending the decision to invade Iraq as the choice between "war and a graver threat.

"Don't let anyone tell you otherwise," McCain said.

"Not our political opponents. And certainly not a disingenuous filmmaker who would have us believe that Saddam's Iraq was an oasis of peace when in fact it was a place of indescribable cruelty, torture chambers, mass graves and prisons that destroyed the lives of the small children held inside their walls."

The 5,000 Republican delegates gathered at Madison Square Garden erupted into sustained boos at the mention of the film, which accuses Bush of lying about the reasons for the Iraq war and going after the wrong enemy.

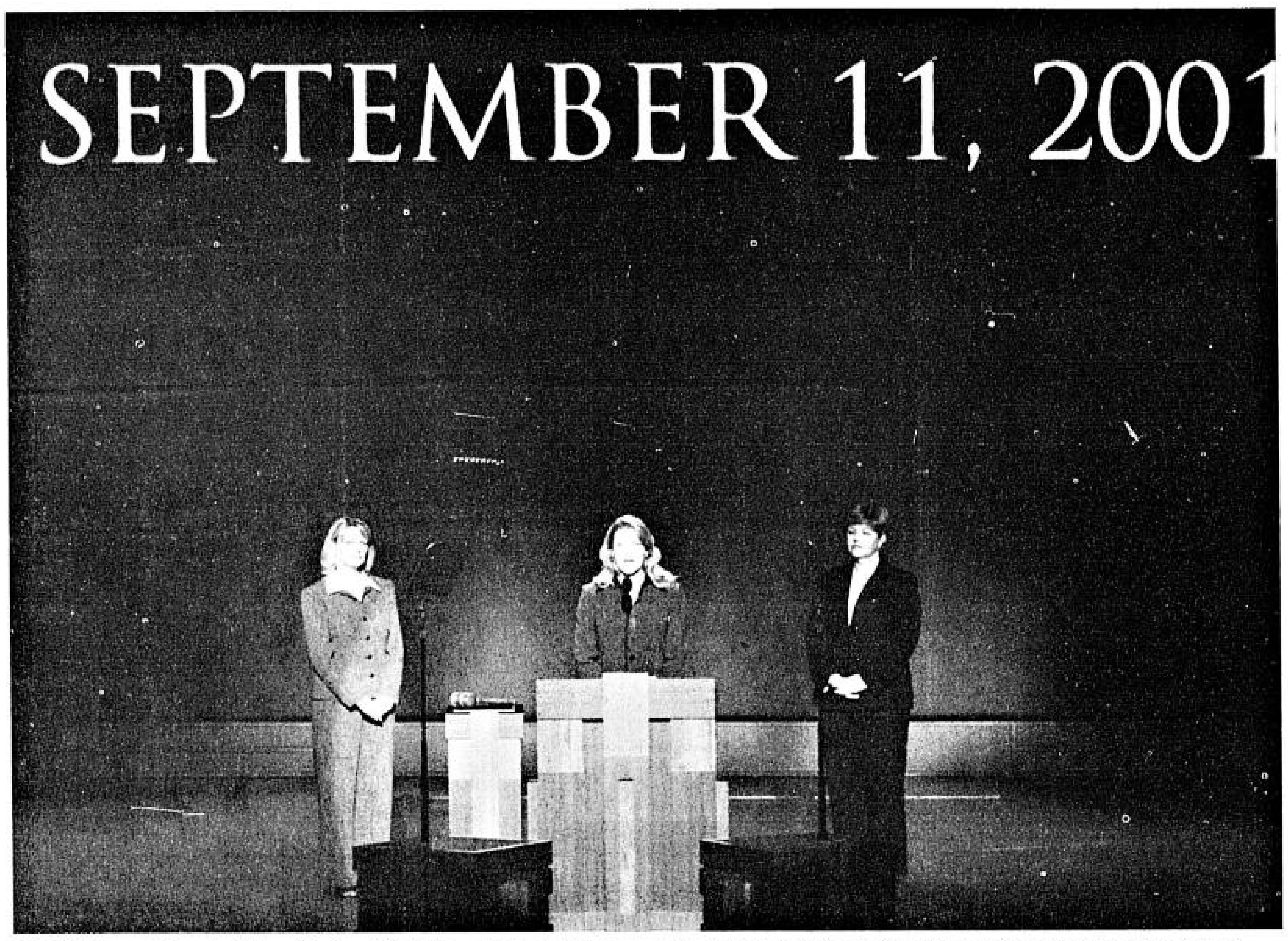
"That line was so good I'll use it again," McCain quipped. "Certainly not a disingenuous filmmaker."

The boos cascaded anew.

Republicans also brought out an Iraqi woman who suffered under Saddam Hussein's rule to bolster Bush's reelection bid, at their national convention.

Dressed in an Islamic headscarf, Zainab al-Suwaij on Monday told thousands of party faithful and their guests that Bush had been right to unleash his unpopular war that brought down the Baghdad dictator.

"We lived under a murderer who used every weapon in his arsenal against us, from tanks to torture chambers to poison gas," she said. *AFP*



DEENA Burnett (center), Tara Stackpole (right) and Debra Burlingame, who lost relatives in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks address delegates to the Republican National Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York on Aug. 30. AFP

Iraqi civilians reveal a slice of their lives

NEW YORK—An Iraqi man dips his foot into a huge crater where a bomb fell, now filled with muddy water. A bedraggled family stares straight into the camera in front of the garbage dump that is their home.

Just south of the bustle of the Republican Convention, and the noisy protests surrounding it, is an exhibition of photographs showing life after the US-led invasion through an Iraqi lens.

Many of the pictures, poignant in their simplicity, reveal a small slice of ordinary Iraqi life. The 30 photographs, part of a collection of 270, were displayed Monday at the New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

The captions under the photos read like notes to a friend or family member: "Inside Alaa's living room," or "Hamed Salman's sister, wife, and brother Mohammed."

Daylight Community Arts Foundation Inc., a fledgling New York-based nonprofit organization working to help communities document their lives, and Pixel Press, an online magazine, provided three women and six men in Baghdad and Fallujah with disposable cameras to click scenes of their lives.

"It was a natural kind of curiosity on our part to allow people to express themselves, and there is no better example of a group of people who need a voice," said Michael Itkoff, co-founder of the Daylight Foundation.

The photos depict the lives of ordinary Iraqis, some living in squalor like the family which shares the garbage dump with a few cows, others playing like the two little boys captured under a palm tree with cheeky smiles and toy guns.

Itkoff and his fellow cofounder, Taj Forer, said they hoped the photos "raise questions and provide an alternative to the mainstream media's depiction of the Iraq invasion."

As the visitors trickled in, one of them said he saw hauntingly familiar images:

"I can relate to some of them (photographs), like the one with the television which the family had bought to watch the war on, or the one with men carrying shovels on the street, and then digging graves to bury the dead," said Krishna Andavolu, 21, an NYU student, who saw the exhibition on the way to class. *AP*

Cops brace for more clashes with protesters

NEW YORK—Police are bracing for more confrontations with protesters after a violent march to Madison Square Garden in which a plainclothes detective was pushed from his scooter and pummeled by a protester, witnesses and authorities said.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly called it "a blatant, vicious attack" on detective William Sample, who was briefly knocked unconscious Monday and was hospitalized with head injuries that were not life-threatening. His assailant was being sought by police.

"People started tugging at his bike and pushing him around," said Rob Raney, a 22-year-old Ohio college student. "Finally they just pushed him off his bike."

Hundreds of police in riot gear and on horses swept in to disperse the crowd, shouting, "Move!" Less than a dozen arrests were made as protesters yelled back, "Whose streets? Our streets!"

Police were preparing for further unrest on Tuesday as protesters promised to demonstrate wherever delegates and Republican Party heavyweights were celebrating and sightseeing.

In the months leading up to the convention, activists designated Tuesday an official day of civil disobedience, planning sit-ins, street theater and even vandalism aimed at the offices of corporations with links to the Bush family or the Republican Party. They planned to start early in the day by harassing Republicans at a breakfast at the Tavern on the Green restaurant in Central Park.

Monday's violence capped an otherwise peaceful day of small demonstrations focusing on health care, civil rights, homelessness and other areas where protesters say President Bush and Republicans have failed the country. *AP*

US FILMMAKER Michael Moore gestures to photographers after US Sen. John McCain made mention of his presence at the Republican National Convention. Moore was denied access to the convention floor. AFP

Sharon presents timetable for Gaza pullout

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented the most detailed timetable yet for a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip to his Likud Party on Tuesday, and warned party rebels that the plan "will be implemented, period."

A Sharon ally in the Cabinet said the evacuation of Jewish settlements in Gaza could begin by the end of the year, or several months ahead of schedule.

The initial plan called for a withdrawal from Gaza and four small West Bank settlements in four stages, to be completed by September 2005. Each phase was to be presented to the Cabinet for approval.

However, with opposition mounting in Likud and in the Cabinet, Sharon has shifted tactics and is pushing for a swifter withdrawal. He also hopes to weaken settler resistance by making early advance payments on compensation that would encourage many of the 8,000 Gaza settlers to leave voluntarily in coming months, according to officials in Sharon's office.

In Gaza, a Palestinian man wearing an explosives belt resembling underpants and hidden under his clothing was stopped at the Erez crossing into Israel. The man had waited in line with thousands of Palestinian workers making their way into Israel every morning.

Soldiers became suspicious when they spotted on him what looked like an activation device. Soldiers isolated him from the workers and ordered him to remove the explosives, which he did.

Erez has been a repeated target of Palestinian militants, though the vast majority of suicide bombers in the past four years have come from the West Bank. Gaza is closed off, and militants have had trouble reaching Israel from the strip.

In Jerusalem, Sharon opened his meeting with Likud legislators with a warning not to sabotage the Gaza withdrawal. "You know my views on the subject. The disengagement plan will be implemented, period," he said.

The first key date in Sharon's timetable for a Gaza withdrawal is Sept. 14, when the Cabinet is scheduled to approve the principles of compensating and evacuating settlers. Officials said advance payments would be authorized at that session.

On Sept. 26, Cabinet ministers will be given draft legislation for carrying out the withdrawal, and the bill will be approved by the Cabinet on Oct. 24, Sharon said. By Nov. 3, the legislation will be presented to parliament for a first of three votes. *AP*

Milosevic opens defense at war crimes trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands—Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic opened his long-delayed defense at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal on Tuesday, describing the battles of his Serbian people as self-defense against internal rebellions and external attacks by Islamic warriors.

Milosevic, charged with genocide and crimes against humanity in the Balkans, portrayed the Serbs as victims rather than aggressors. According to him, Serbs were also victims of a plan supported by the United States and Europe to break up Yugoslavia, of an attempt to wipe out Croatia's Serb minority, and of a Saudi-financed plot to create an Islamic state in Bosnia.

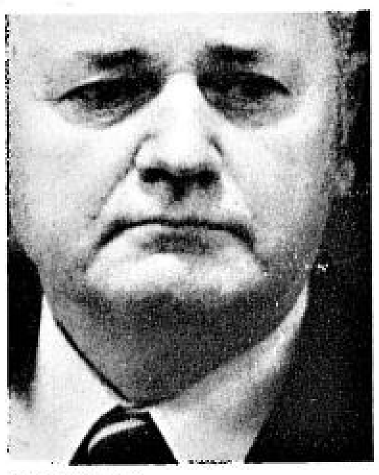
Milosevic's statement, launching the second half of what is seen as the most important war crimes trial since World War II, began with a complaint to the judges that he was allotted only four hours to make his opening argument, while prosecutors were given three days to outline their case when the trial began in February 2002.

But presiding judge Patrick Robinson ordered Milosevic to proceed, saying the defense case had repeatedly been delayed by his frail health.

Originally set for April, it was postponed five times when doctors determined that Milosevic's blood pressure was dangerously high.

But the judges, anxious to put the trial back on course, placed the opening of the defense at the top of Tuesday's agenda. Milosevic's health, and the possible appointment of a defense lawyer against his will may be discussed later, the judges ruled.

Milosevic, 63, faces 66 counts of war crimes for allegedly instigating three wars during the violent breakup of the Yugoslav federation in the 1990s when more than 200,000 people were killed. *AP*



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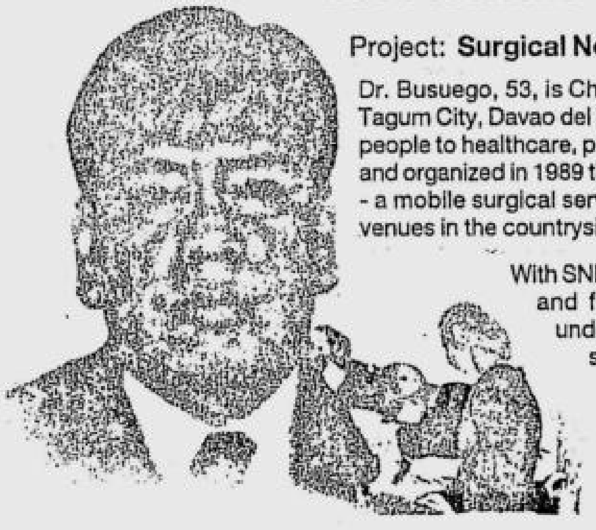


Project: **Surgical Networking Extension Program (SNEP)**

Dr. Busuego, 53, is Chief of Hospital of the Davao Regional Hospital in Tagum City, Davao del Norte. Realizing the lack of general access of rural people to healthcare, particularly to elective surgeries, he conceptualized and organized in 1989 the Surgical Networking Extension Program (SNEP) - a mobile surgical service that performed various surgeries in different venues in the countryside.

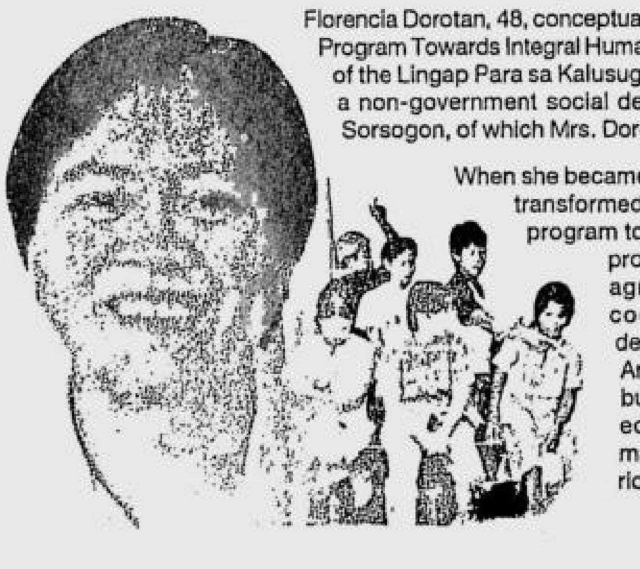
With SNEP, elective surgical services were made physically and financially accessible to the marginalized and underserved communities through provision of free surgical services, shorter hospital stays, decreased expenses for transportation, food and accommodation of the patient and their families.

SNEP has conducted 118 surgical networking activities serving over 15,000 people not just in Region 11 but in Region 12 and the Caraga Region as well — with zero mortality rate.

"What we were trying to do was to empower the people, empower the poor with health as our entry point. We believe that the approach to health should be holistic."

Mrs. Florencia C. Dorotan

Project: **People's Health Program Towards Integral Human Development (PHP)**



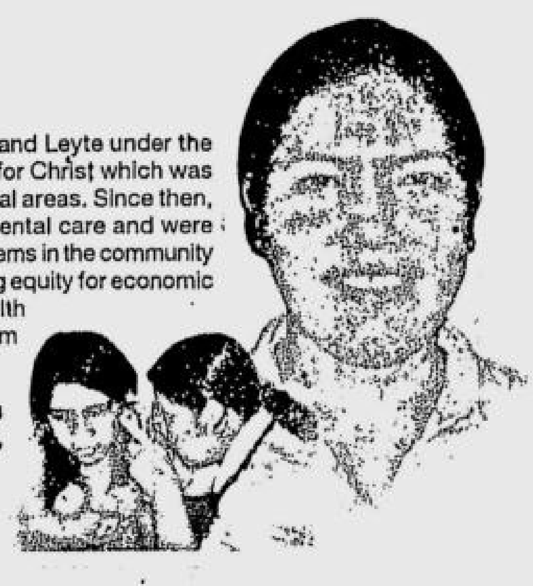
Florencia Dorotan, 48, conceptualized and implemented the People's Health Program Towards Integral Human Development (PHP), one of the programs of the Lingap Para sa Kalusugan ng Sambayanan (LIKAS), Inc. LIKAS is a non-government social development organization based in Irosin, Sorsogon, of which Mrs. Dorotan was a co-founder.

When she became Executive Director of LIKAS in 1988, she transformed PHP from a health-focused intervention program to an integrated, area-based development program covering health care, environment, agrarian reform and rural development, cooperative organizing, enterprise development, gender and local governance. Among their projects were food production, building of artesian wells and toilets, nutrition education including breastfeeding, and making of supplementary cereal out of mongo, rice and corn.

"You have to keep empowering communities to bring about change in terms of the health and quality of life of the people."

Dr. Editha C. Miguel

Project: **Agape Rural Program**



In 1986, Dr. Miguel and 7 other volunteer doctors went to Palawan and Leyte under the Agape Rural Program of the Rural Ministry of the Campus Crusade for Christ which was designed to help address the acute health needs of people in the rural areas. Since then, more than 50,000 individuals were given immediate medical and dental care and were taught preventive and promotive health care. Health and livelihood problems in the community were addressed through building of potable water systems, advocating equity for economic development, and training more than 40 groups of Community Health Committees and Workers with appropriate skills for health program management.

As Program Director of AGAPE, Dr. Miguel, 50, has been engaged in recruiting volunteers for ARP's projects, raising funds for the program, and often led medical clinics to the most remote areas inhabited by tribal communities. ARP's work has been extended to Cagayan and Nueva Ecija.

"The Eye Bank was able to continue giving free eye tissues to the poor by sharing tissues internationally and charging a processing fee to keep us viable."

Dr. Ma. Dominga B. Padilla

Project: **Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines, Santa Lucia International Eye Bank of Manila**

Dr. Dominga Padilla, 44, has been the moving force behind the program to alleviate corneal blindness in the Philippines. She founded and chairs the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines and serves as Medical Director of the Foundation's Eye Bank.

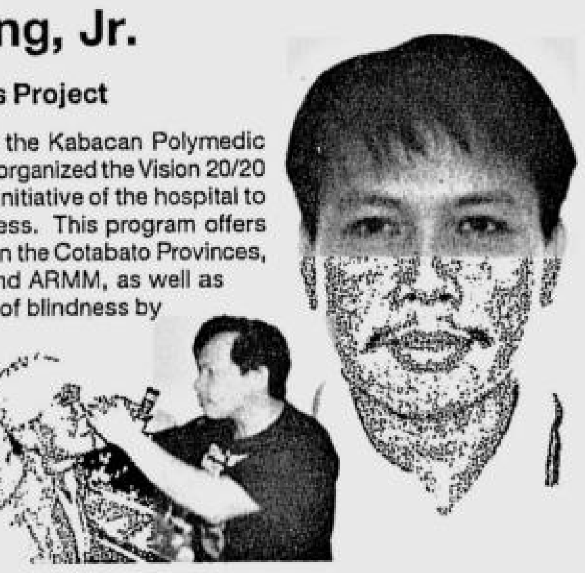
She lobbied for the passage of a bill in Congress that allowed the harvesting of corneas from medico-legal cases in the police and hospital morgues. She has also gained the cooperation of the police, memorial chapels, airlines and courier companies to help source the corneas and facilitate their delivery to the Eye Bank.

Since 1994, the Eye Bank has been collecting, processing, storing and equitably distributing high-quality transplantable eye tissues to thousands of Filipinos. It has been providing free corneal tissues to indigent patients by collecting processing fees from private, non-charity patients both here and abroad.

"I made a personal promise to myself that if I become an ophthalmologist, then no one has to go needlessly blind just because he is poor."

Dr. Kadil M. Sinolinding, Jr.

Project: **Vision 20/20 Cataract Charities Project**



Dr. Sinolinding, 39, is the medical director of the Kabacan Polymedic Cooperative Hospital in Kabacan, Cotabato. He organized the Vision 20/20 Cataract Charities Project in 1998 as a special initiative of the hospital to address the alarming rate of avoidable blindness. This program offers affordable and sustainable ophthalmic services in the Cotabato Provinces, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan and ARMM, as well as contributes to the reduction of the prevalence of blindness by 0.7% through the increased Cataract Surgical Rate.

For the past five years, the project has served thousands of charity patients who suffer from various eye ailments such as cataract, glaucoma, squint and pterygium. Close to 35,000 patients have been screened and 3,300 cataract surgeries and 2,200 other eye surgeries have been performed.

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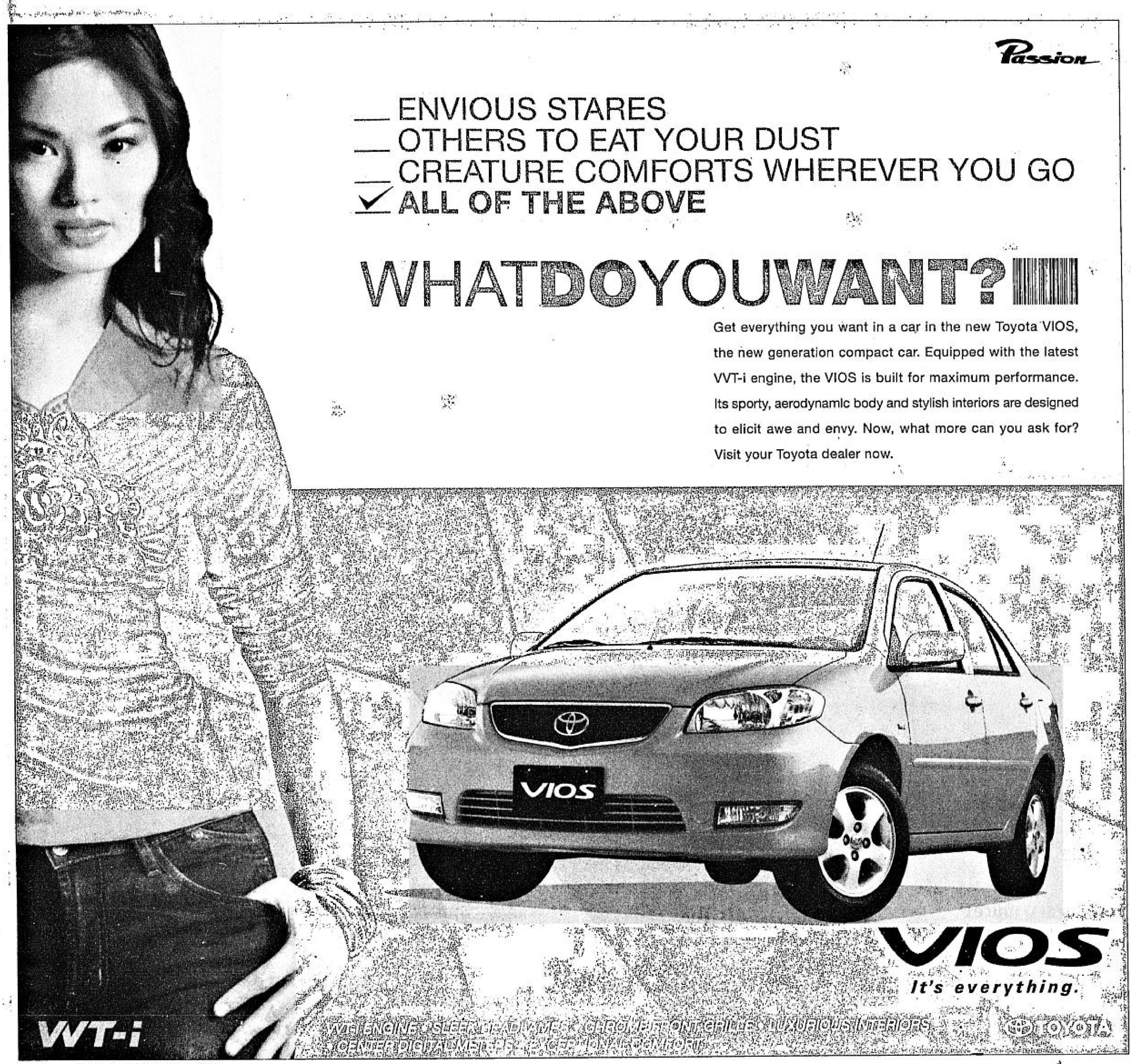
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WORLDBRIEFS

'Inhumane' abduction

BAGHDAD—Rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr's lieutenants called Tuesday for the release of two kidnapped French reporters, denouncing their abduction as "inhumane and immoral." Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot were shown on a video released by a pan-Arab television station Al-Jazeera early Tuesday pleading with French President Jacques Chirac to save their lives by giving in to militants' demands to rescind a headscarf ban, a move France has ruled out. "We believe such acts defame Islam and Muslims in general," said Ali al-Yasiri, a Sadr representative in Baghdad. "To fight in a battlefield is OK, but to kill a civilian or journalist is blasphemy." **AFP**

Live-fire drills off

TAIPEI—Taiwan's president said he made a goodwill gesture toward rival China on Tuesday, canceling a major live-fire military exercise shortly after Beijing reportedly called off massive war games near Taiwan. The military drills have increased tensions between the two sides, which split during a civil war 55 years ago. Beijing insists Taiwan is Chinese territory and must eventually unify or suffer a punishing attack. In recent weeks, China's state-run media had reported that Chinese troops, planes and ships were gearing up for joint exercises on Dongshan Island off the Chinese coast. Officials said the drills were routine, but Chinese media highlighted their focus on capturing islands—a clear warning to Taiwan, which is just 160 km away. **AP**

Putin blames al-Qaida

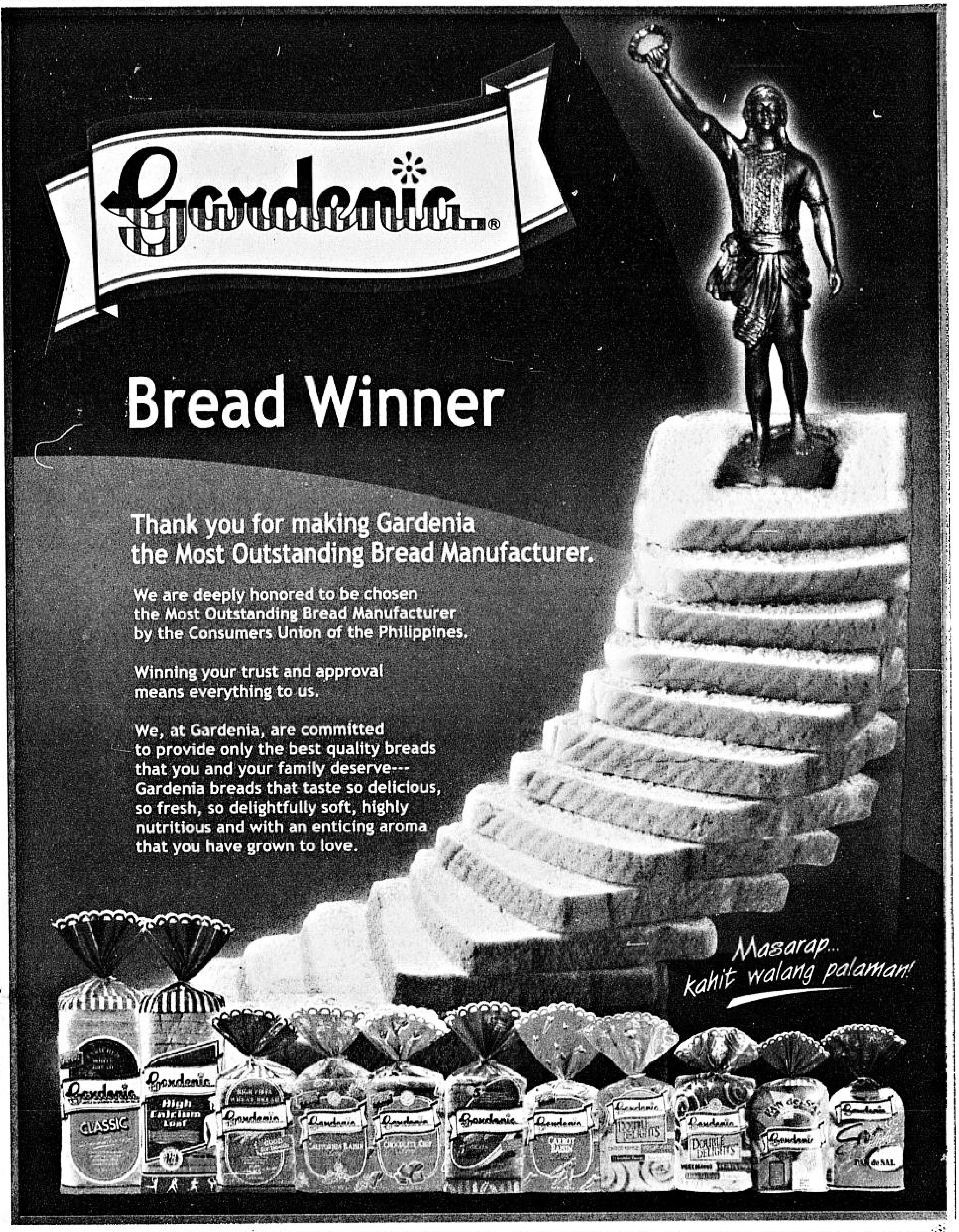
SOCHI, Russia—Russian President Vladimir Putin linked the downing last week of two passenger airliners to al-Qaida and said here Tuesday this proved the presence of organized international terrorism on Russian soil. "The fact that an international terrorist organization linked to al-Qaida took responsibility for the blowing up of two planes shows once again the link between destructive elements in Chechnya and international terrorism," Putin told reporters. Putin, speaking after talks with French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, said Russia would continue to combat separatist forces in Chechnya. **AFP**

Nokor boycott

SEOUL—North Korea boycotted high-level economic talks with South Korea on Tuesday amid a deepening chill in inter-Korean relations, officials said. North Korean delegates did not show up for the talks, which were to open in Seoul on Tuesday and run for four days, the South's unification ministry said. The ministry expressed regret and urged North Korea to resume the suspended talks on economic projects, including the construction of an industrial site in the North Korean border city of Kaesong and cross-border rail connections. "We hope North Korea will resume the suspended talks at an early date," a ministry official said. **AFP**

Few floral tributes

LONDON—Seven years after the death of Princess Diana sparked a national outpouring of grief across Britain, the late royal's memory appeared on Tuesday to be gradually fading from the public consciousness. Just a smattering of floral tributes to the princess could be seen on the pavement outside Kensington Palace in central London, Diana's former home, on Tuesday morning, the seventh anniversary of her death. The area had become a sea of flowers in the days following Diana's death in a car crash in Paris in the early hours of Aug. 31, 1997, an accident which prompted scenes of national grieving. The former wife of the heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, was a hugely popular figure, beloved both for her charitable campaigns and her glamorous and often troubled life. **AFP**



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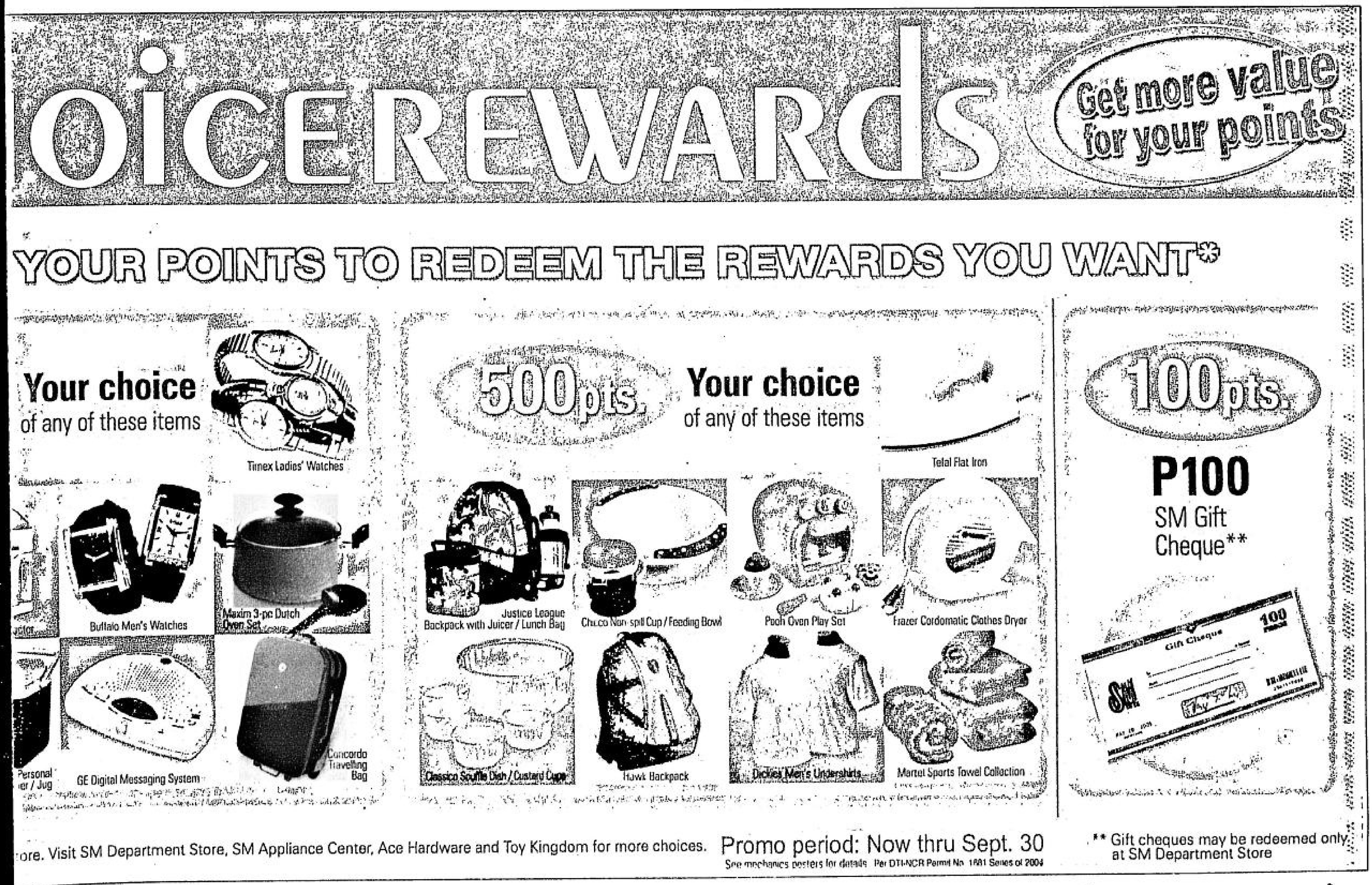

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Trickles

EDITORIAL

THE PERENNIAL problem of floods is a case of nearly everyone being at fault. A recent symposium at the University of the Philippines featured geologist Kelvin Rodolfo expounding on how fully the blame can be farmed out. The poor with their dependence on artesian wells; the wealthy with their housing developments and the logging they profit from; the middle class and wealthy, too, with their fishponds; and the government, which covers everything, including natural systems of drainage, with concrete, and which cannot (or will not) enforce laws: all these come together to create the nightmare that is the Philippines whenever heavy rains occur.

The surprising thing about Rodolfo's observations was that garbage, according to him, wasn't the cause of the mess that Metro Manila and other areas became during the recent rains. Garbage doesn't help—but there are deeper reasons.

It should be a cause for alarm that our country lost more lives to the recent rains than did Taiwan, which bore the brunt of the typhoon that merely passed in our vicinity. This goes to show how perilous the lives of so many of our people are. For it's not as if we're unused to strong monsoon rains.

If there is one big lesson to be gained from Rodolfo's remarks, it is that the idea that government can do everything, and is responsible for everything, has become increasingly outmoded. While it is true that government has vast regulatory functions and powers, there is still the element of private responsibility. For example, government since the administration of President Ramon Magsaysay has made a fetish out of providing barangays with artesian wells. And yet there are also many private developments and neighborhoods that have also installed artesian wells, and other kinds of wells with pumps. As Rodolfo pointed out, pumping water out of subterranean areas lowers the level of the ground—enough, over time, to make areas more flood-prone.

The real question then, from the recent experience of millions of Filipinos, is, what can we do to reduce the calamitous effects of floods?

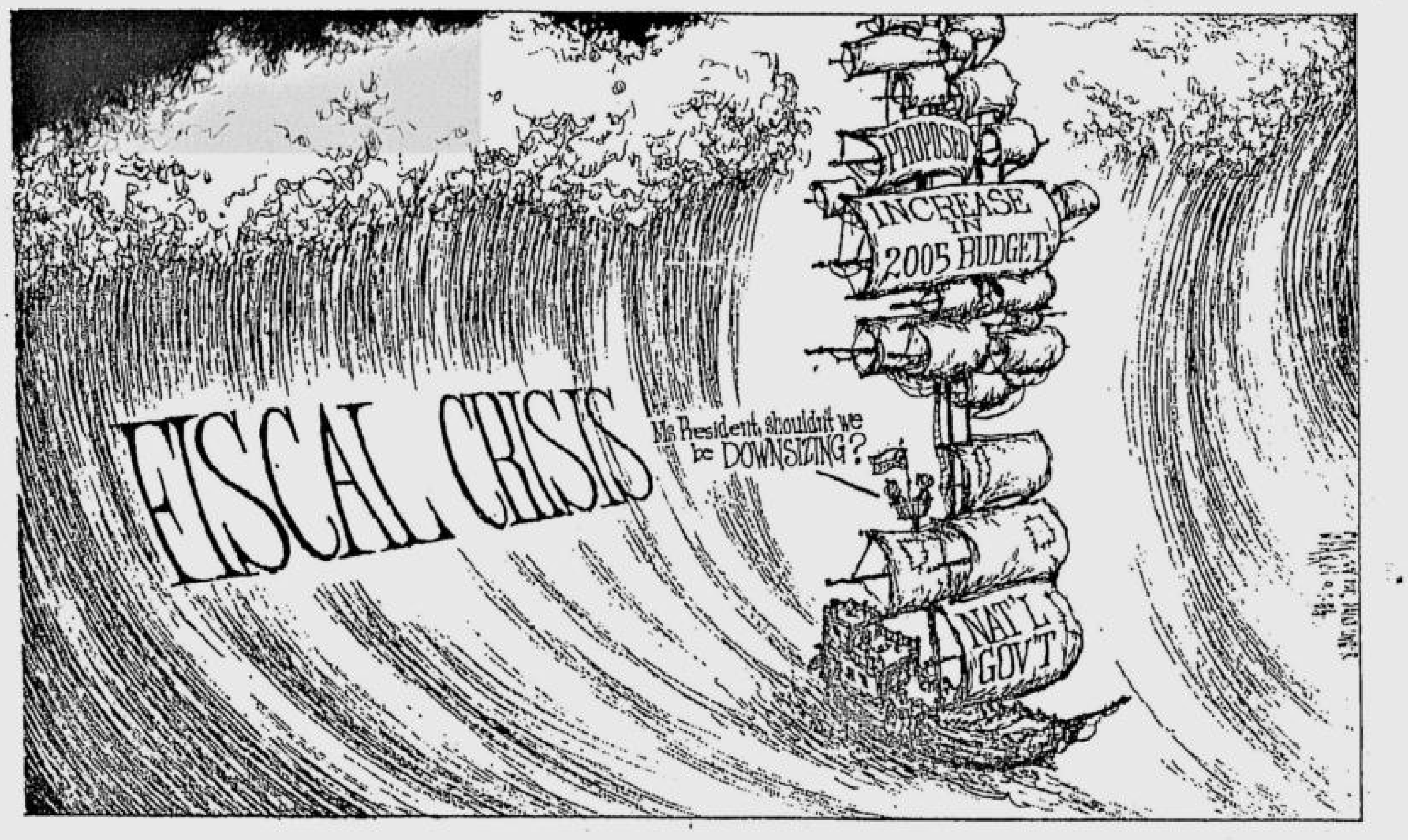
One change that can be done at little cost but which requires something more precious—cooperation and initiative—is to restore the system of monsoon alerts that have been scrapped. In general, government and the schools work well together when there are typhoons. But as public indignation echoed by the media during last week's floods indicates, neither the Department of Education nor many city and municipal authorities, nor even private schools, have an organized system for dealing with heavy rains. The result was best exemplified by the government, which called off work the day after the worst of the rains, because so many people had gotten sick or stuck in the floods the previous day.

Another change, of course, is putting an end to construction projects that commence after the hot season. This is simply laziness on the part of local and national executives.

The most fundamental change, however, requires citizens to put an end to the bad habit of passing the buck to government in order to enjoy the self-defeating satisfaction of complaining about officials when it rains. As Rodolfo's observations indicate, there is plenty of blame to go around for flooding. If, as he says, a big part of the problem is, indeed, the negligence of government in enforcing regulations and laws, who will regulate the regulators? The only answer is, the electorate. So what does the electorate intend to do about local and national officials who fail to solve problems that crop up year after year?

The same applies for residents of private developments that have been built in flood-prone areas, or which now suffer from a lower ground level because of unregulated tapping of underground water reservoirs. Those who sell houses and lots have a responsibility to their buyers to ensure that all laws have been complied with, and the viability of the community is assured even after the developers have made their pile.

If we are advocating responsibility and accountability on the part of public officials, we can do no less than demand corporate responsibility as well.



Let's work faster to promote coco diesel

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

I RECEIVED three letters and a phone call in reaction to the Aug. 9 column ("Coco diesel as renewable source of fuel"). The caller wanted to know where he could buy coco diesel. I didn't know where, so I referred him to the Philippine Coconut Authority in Quezon City.

Of the three letters, two were from the PCA and one from the Department of Energy. Energy Secretary Vincent Perez expressed gratitude to this column for "advocating the use of Coco-Biodiesel to lessen dependence on imported crude oil," and then enumerated what the DOE was doing to "lay the groundwork" for the nationwide use of coco diesel.

The PCA letters were written by Thelma M.Tolentino, manager of the Public Relations and Information Office, and Lornito L. Orillaneda, manager for Region XI based in Davao City. I don't know which is the official stand and who is the official spokesperson of the PCA because the two letters are contradictory. While Tolentino was thankful, Orillaneda was angry.

"We in the PCA are heartened to find an ally in your person," wrote Tolentino. "Your article must have caught the attention of our concerned national policymakers."

But Orillaneda found me an enemy, and nitpicked on bits and pieces of the column to criticize instead of trying to understand what the whole column meant.

What did the column say? Its gist is that with the rising price of crude oil, which we can do nothing about, at least we can lessen our dependence on imported crude. We are lucky to have a renewable source of diesel fuel: coco biodiesel which is non-polluting, unlike the petro-based diesel. I added that with the emergency in the price of crude, I am surprised why our government agencies, especially the PCA, which was created solely to develop the coconut industry, are not being more aggressive in promoting coco diesel.

Orillaneda didn't like that and proceeded to prove in his letter that I am an ignoramus regarding the PCA and that he is the expert.

Since the letter is quite long, I will summarize its relevant points and follow it with my own comments:

1. He said it is not true anymore that harvesting coconuts costs more than the income a coco farmer would get selling the copra. The average copra price has risen. He added that there is a law that provides that for every coconut tree cut, there should be a replacement seedling planted.

(Comment: Farmers are still cutting their coconut trees. Where else are all those coco lumber coming from? That can only mean that they still earn more from the cut trunks than from the nuts, or else they would not cut them. A seedling will take 10 years to start bearing fruit. By the time the new seedlings bear fruit, our coconut plantations would be obliterated.)

2. He said the world scare over coco cholesterol is a "farce." He cited a foreign nutritionist who labeled coconut oil as "the healthiest oil on earth."

(Comment: That's one man's opinion against the rest of the world. The cholesterol scare caused the bottom to drop out of the world price of copra. And Orillanedo doesn't know what he is talking about. The doctor he mentioned was speaking of virgin coconut oil, not the cooking oil sold in the supermarkets. Although the latter bears labels declaring "no cholesterol," that is only half of the story. Coco cooking oil is really "cholestrol-free" in its raw form. But once it is subjected to heat, as in cooking, chemical changes take place that make it cholesterol-rich. Even PCA pamphlets say that virgin oil should not be subjected to heat, otherwise chemical changes will make it lose its healing properties.)

3. He said my allegation that the PCA "has not done anything is a sweeping accusation devoid of foundation" and added that the PCA administrator "had made press releases several times in the tri-media, public and private fora and the agency's Regional/Provincial offices had been the conveyor and purveyor of information for the general public." He crowed that his own office in Region XI had "conducted a series of CME processing/techno demonstrations...in Mindanao and Visayas which elicited interest among prospective entrepreneurs."

(Comment: Even if the PCA "had made press releases several times" about coco diesel, the fact that until now not many people know about it shows that it is a miserable failure. Coco biodiesel has been around since 2001, and it is now 2004. With the price of imported oil rising to unprecedented levels, shouldn't the PCA, the DOE and other government agencies work double-time to produce more coco diesel, make it available to more consumers, and thereby lessen our dependence on imported oil?

(The Philippines uses 70 billion liters of diesel a year. The recommendation is to mix 1 to 5 percent of coco diesel with petro diesel. If we are able to mix only one percent, that is 700 million liters of petro diesel less. If the mix is 5 percent, that's 3.5 billion liters less imported diesel.

(There are only about 168 small retailers selling coco diesel in containers nationwide. But you can hardly find any in Metro Manila where the most diesel-consuming vehicles are concentrated. Even the PCA itself doesn't sell any to the public.

(The PCA says more investors are needed to produce coco diesel and that it has no money. There are billions of idle pesos in coco levy funds. Why are they not invested in coco diesel? I understand it can be produced by coco farmer cooperatives. So what is the Cocofed doing?

(The PCA has three multi-story office buildings in Quezon City plus regional offices full of employees. What have they been doing all these years?)

Reminders

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I MISSED the Argentina-Italy basketball finals, but I didn't miss the USA-Lithuania battle for bronze. I hadn't been following Olympic basketball closely on TV, though I'd been reading the reports and knew that the press was no longer calling the US team the "Dream Team" but the "Dreaming Team." This was after Allen Iverson and company racked up three losses in the course of their stint in Athens, at the hands variously of Puerto Rico, Lithuania and Argentina, forcing them to settle for bronze after dominating the sport forever. I caught the US-Lithuania match on TV last Sunday afternoon and got some valuable reminders not just of what basketball was all about but of what life was all about.

Of course, it's true: The US Olympic team did not have the best players in the NBA, despite having Iverson and Tim Duncan there. And they will remain the team to beat four years from now, in the next Olympics, when they come roaring back seeking revenge after being humbled in this way. Shaquille O'Neal wasn't there, Kobe Bryant wasn't there, Kevin Garnett wasn't there, Jason Kidd wasn't there, the Detroit guys weren't there.

And it's true as well: The teams that beat the United States had one or two guys that were playing for the NBA, too. But it's no excuse. The rest of the world may now say with passion, "Ah, but we love this game, too!"

First, the reminders of what basketball is about: As the US-Lithuania game showed, basketball is a team sport. Iverson and company escaped with the win only by the skin of their teeth. They pulled away only in the fourth quarter after a scrappy dogfight for three quarters and a good deal of the fourth. Lithuania simply had the better teamwork, even if they were outhustled in the boards. One announcer said the US players, being used to one-on-one, never quite found a way to deal with the zone. But it was more than that. It was that the US players, being used to advertising individual wares, the better to grab the attention of sponsors and land fatter contracts, tended to play more indulgently. The other teams were not out to wow the crowd, they were out to win the gold.

Second, basketball is not just a game of height, it is a game of shooting. The object of the game after all is to get the ball to fall inside the hoop. Of course, I will forever thank Dr. J for giving the game a touch of class and a dash of excitement by inventing all those moves, which have become staples in the NBA. But the flashiest of Vince Carter's dunks still count for two points while the most awkward of Reggie Miller's shots behind the arc still count for three points. I do recall that the most feared of the Filipino players during the Asian Games many years ago was not Samboy Lim, who dazzled local fans with his twisting shots underneath the hoop, but Allan Caidic, who dismayed opponents with his long-distance sharp-shooting.

I myself thought the Lithuanians would win the bronze, shooting the living daylights off the US team from afar and from virtually every angle for most of the game. The only reason the US team won it eventually was not their spectacular plays but their own three-point shots, which started going in in the third quarter and particularly in the fourth. They gave the Lithuanians a dose of their own medicine. Had they found the touch early on in Greece, they might have gone home champions. In fact, as they themselves proved in that game, if a little belatedly, that a basketball team can get very far with very good team work and very good shooting.

But the biggest lesson there is not about basketball, it is about life. It's to be found at the very opening of the Games, during the parade, when the crowd fell into a polite silence when the US team appeared and waved to them and broke into furious applause when the Iraqi and Palestinian teams floated into view. The crowd's sympathies became more abundantly clear over the next couple of weeks when they cheered every team the US basketball players, the epitome of American sports dominance, played against. Some even went on to boo the US team when some of its players showed petulance, or boorishness, arguing with the referees.

That was the biggest obstacle the US team had to hurdle, the nightmare the Dream Team conjured. It wasn't that they didn't have all of the best players of the NBA, it wasn't that they didn't have any bona fide outside snipers, it wasn't that the other teams had gotten so much better. It was that they were playing to a crowd that didn't like them. Of course, they could always have risen to the challenge and charmed the hostiles with graciousness. But they didn't. The habit of trash-talking dies hard.

The hostility, of course, owed to George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq and overall attempt to impose his will upon the world. Which in the end went against the entire spirit of the Olympics, which is fairness, which is competition, which is respecting other people. The ad on ESPN says it all: "You are my opponent, but you are not my enemy. On the contrary, you are my friend. It is through our struggle that we make ourselves shine." Or words to that effect. That is the spirit that has been lost in the frenzied American effort over the last few years to bully the world into submission.

That is the spirit that has animated not just the Olympics but the conduct between nations until the American response to 9/11. The fate suffered by the US Dream Team in the Olympics does say many things. It says at bottom that no matter how strong you are, you are not going to win against opponents that are united in a common effort to resist you. You are not going to win against opponents that have found the reason and the resolve to topple you.

It's a reminder that goes well beyond sports.

At the end of the day

COMMENTARY

Michael Hussin B. Muin, M.D.

DOCTORS are leaving. We've read the bitter reviews, the harsh editorials and the sensational news. Filipino doctors are packing their bags and taking the next flight out of the country. It doesn't matter where or as what. The bottom line is that they're out of here—and Philippine society is angry.

It's easy to lump individuals into professional categories: doctors, specialists, general practitioners. When headlines shout, "Doctors are leaving," it conjures an image of a crowd in a cinema running and fighting their way to the exit as if a fire just occurred. In this instance, it doesn't matter where you end up as long as you don't end up dead. Anywhere but here, as an old saying goes.

Is this far from the truth? I honestly don't know. I only know that there are familiar faces in the crowd: classmates, friends, teachers and mentors. And they are not running. They are sitting silently in the corner, deep in thought but ready to make their move.

My friend once told me this story. He was in a Florida club with a white female friend. This was just after he passed the local board exams. A white dude came up to him and insulted him, using racist remarks. His female companion defended him, saying he was a Filipino doctor. The dude just had one more thing to say to my friend, "So, what does that make you **here**?" My friend replied, "Nothing. That makes me nothing at all."

Sad, but that's a true story. It also drives home the point that some doctors, when they leave for other countries, may also be leaving their hard-earned degrees. Ten years of sleepless nights, stressful days and neck-breaking hours in between—all down the drain.

Only a few understand the rigors of medical training. The prized title of M.D. consumes almost 10 years of a person's life. If you add residency training, he would have spent half of his life going after his goal to be a doctor.

But beyond the time and the labor, fewer people understand the support every medical student or resident physician needs. For many, medicine is not an individual goal; it is a collective dream nourished by fathers and mothers way before medical school. Nobody survives medical school or residency training without moral and financial support.

We know the stories: a Filipino worker in Saudi Arabia cannot go home until his daughter becomes a doctor; a caregiver in Canada continually sends half her income to pay the tuition of her brother in medical school; a government employee foregoes retirement to fund materials and equipment for her son in residency training. There is no dearth of stories. Behind one doctor's dream is a collection of family sacrifices—sacrifices that may have to be paid in full.

It's not surprising new physicians or specialists are running up and about, ready to put all their training to use. They need to earn. Let me repeat that, they need to earn. With a certificate in one hand and some idealism in the other, they stand at a crossroads.

Doctors practice their trade wherever and whenever they can. Some go home to their provinces, while others try their luck in urban centers. Some take up additional training, while others set up small clinics. Some apply for admitting privileges in hospitals, while others get affiliations from HMOs.

Their working hours may start as early as 5 a.m. and end as late as midnight. At the end of the day, in the confines of their own homes, they hang up their stethoscopes and tuck away their degrees. They watch the news and eat stale dinners like everyone else. They play with their kids and put them to sleep like everyone else. They go to bed tired and weary like everyone else. Because at the end of the day, these doctors are not doctors. They are fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives. And much like everyone else, they worry about their future and their family's future.

As the exodus continues, Philippine society will see doctors leaving careers and patients behind. But in the confines of their homes in different parts of the country, we see fathers and mothers leaving families behind, sons and daughters saying goodbye, and husbands and wives praying for a bright future. At the end of the day, we are not losing doctors, we are losing loved ones.

Almost a year ago, my good friend told me he was leaving for Trinidad and Tobago as a UN volunteer doctor. I didn't ask about his career, his degree or his plans. The only question I asked was, "*Paano ang anak mo? Asawa mo?*" With a long sigh and a brief smile, he answered, "*Para sa kanila naman ito.*"

And that is the situation many doctors find themselves in. With a plane ticket in one hand and a good dose of reality in the other, they stand at a crossroads that leads to faraway places and foreign countries, where the only things they can bring are what they can fit in their hearts, aside from some pictures in their wallets.

I may soon find myself standing at that crossroads, falling in line and holding a crisp boarding pass in my hand. But I don't dread the day some white dude would walk up to me and say, "So, what does that make you here?"

It makes me a father. At the end of the day, in the confines of my rented space in a foreign land, my son is more important to me than a piece of paper hanging on a wall.

Michael Hussin B. Muin, M.D. is the founder and editor in chief of Pinoy.MD -The Website for Filipino Doctors. He is a professor of Clinical Anatomy and Medical Informatics in a medical school in Pangasinan.

Off to London

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY THE TIME you read this, I will be in London, taking part in a global conference called "Coundown 2015." The conference is being held 10 years after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994 and is meant not just to look back at the last 10 years and assess how well governments have lived up to their commitments in the ICPD Program of Action, but also to chart new roads to attaining universal reproductive health.

In a report for the Inter Press Service News Agency, Sanjay Suri says the meeting is "expected to produce strategies to produce badly needed services by 2015, the deadlines the signatories to the Cairo final document set for themselves.

Though the ICPD, also known as the Cairo Conference, is remembered today mostly for the controversies it raised, it is seen by professionals in the health and population field and by advocates as a landmark event. "It highlighted the link between poverty and population, and it spoke of reproductive health as not just a means to control population but as a rights issue. The very idea of 'reproductive health' was born at the Cairo Conference," Suri writes.

Among the media, particularly, the Cairo Conference is remembered mainly for the divisions among the representative governments toward the end, when the Vatican delegation, together with a few conservative Catholic and Islamic regimes, "reserved" their consent on key paragraphs and sections in the final Program of Action. What we tend to forget, though, is that aside from these holdouts, the majority of the world's governments present at the meet reached consensus on the bold breakthroughs achieved in the conference.

Perhaps the most important "breakthrough" was the acceptance by governments that women and children are not the "problem" when it comes to discussing the issue of population and development. And that in fact, women are key partners in any program that seeks to address population growth and related problems.

* * *

BASIC among the tenets enshrined in Cairo was that governments need only respect the rights of women and men, and address the problems born out of gender differentials, and they would have made much progress on the population front.

Governments need only see to it that girls enjoy their basic right to education, good health and self-actualization, and these girls will grow up to be women who wish to contribute to the good of society, opting to postpone marriage and even sexual initiation to pursue their dreams and ambitions and become productive members of society.

Cairo also marked a turning point from the old paradigm of looking at population growth and reproductive behavior as merely a "numbers" problem, to viewing it as a matter of human right and individual decisions. Studies had shown, though, that once convinced of the desirability of having a small family, women and couples would themselves choose wisely and well.

But as the ICPD Program of Action noted, to achieve these ends, governments must invest in their people, especially in their girls. Governments must commit to making all safe, effective and acceptable methods of family planning accessible to their citizens.

And prosperous countries need to see that it is in their interests to help poor developing countries achieve their reproductive health goals and dig themselves out of the poverty pit.

* * *

BUT as Suri notes in his article, thanks to simplification by the world's media, the term "reproductive health" "came to mean mostly family planning, sex education, safe motherhood and protection against sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS."

Perhaps it was this myopic view that produced results that seem to be diametrically opposite to those set out in Cairo. While the Program of Action declared that "all countries should reduce mortality and seek to make primary health care, including reproductive health care, available universally by the end of the current decade," Suri says "the end of the '90s brought nothing of the kind." Instead, it marked the "beginning of a cut in funds and commitment," led ironically by the United States that had been instrumental in organizing the ICPD.

What led to this reversal of fortunes? A change of administration in the United States, with the administration of George W. Bush slashing funds not just to the United Nations Fund for Population, but even aid support to countries and NGOs engaged in reproductive health activities.

Suri quotes Patricia Hindmarsh, international relations director of Marie Stopes International, as saying that "we have all fallen well behind the commitments made at Cairo. The northern governments have fallen well behind, the southern ones have done a little better."

* * *

THIS is why, at the "Countdown 2015" conference in London, NGOs, through their partners in the media, will seek to push governments to renew their commitments to the Cairo goals.

Frances Kissling of the Catholics for a Free Choice, asserts that "this will be an important event, because much of the delivery of reproductive health services is accomplished through NGOs. Civil society organizations should always be ahead of the government. Governments are usually stuck in status quo, and civil society must push the governments to be more progressive."

If that's the case, then civil society in our country has their work cut out for them. In the Arroyo administration, particularly, a President who felt beholden to the Church for her ascent to power was only too willing to bargain women's rights away in exchange for continued support and patronage.

I expect the exchanges of views and information in London to be exciting and provocative, even if, given the state of affairs after Cairo in the decade following, the news won't be all that uplifting. Still, as they say, hope springs eternal...

Crime in Manila in the 1840s

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN people come up to me at lectures or a book launch and ask me to sign a collection of books I have written, I am so flattered I oblige.

Nick Joaquin was not so accommodating because he had published so many books that it would have taken him the better part of a day just to sign each one. Not wishing to try Joaquin's patience, I chose his two books on Manila that he later admitted were his all-time favorites. Unfortunately it was a mistake to expect something edifying on the lavishly illustrated "Almanac for Manileños" and the thick, beautifully printed "Manila, My Manila." In one, he wrote that I wouldn't recognize history if I met him in a dark corner. In the other, he asked what I would know about his Manila. Perhaps this was his way of expressing his affection instead of literally rapping me on my head with his knuckles in a vain attempt to wake me up even if I wasn't sleeping.

Whatever nostalgic or romantic notions I used to have for Spanish Manila I got from reading Joaquin. But after exploring what is left of Intramuros on foot and reading historical accounts of Manila, I must disagree with him.

I wouldn't want to live in the past. Aside from the lack of 21st-century conveniences like a cell phone, the Internet, cars, air conditioning and a microwave oven, there was not much entertainment in Spanish Manila. Imagine living in a time when long-winded sung Masses were considered a highlight of the week. For those with more gruesome taste, the regular executions on Bagumbayan (now Rizal Park) were also considered part of the week's entertainment. What I would give to travel back in time and witness the execution of Rizal by musketry or the execution of Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora by garrote.

Contrary to popular belief, criminals executed by garrote were not killed slowly by strangulation. Rather, the heavy metal bar was made to fit snugly on the victims neck so that, with one twist of the garrote handle, the neck was broken causing quick, merciful death. Since nobody has survived to tell us whether this is true, we will just have to take the executioners' word for it.

These reflections on the garrote came as I read through statistical and economic data in "Les isles Philippines de leur situation ancienne et actualle" by Perre Joseph Lannoy, first published in Brussels in 1849. I have not seen the book, only a photocopy in the study of the late E. Aguilar Cruz who contemplated translating it from the original French for the National Historical Institute. Last year an English translation by Pura Santillan-Castrence was published by the NHI.

Lannoy, the Belgian consul in Manila, supplied a lot of politico-economic data, the most engaging being correctional and criminal statistics covering the years 1846-1847. The data paint a picture of the peace and order situation in Manila at the time. In 1846 there were:

"Assaults 12, Attacks and ill-treatment 58, Carrying prohibited weapons 16, Adultery 2, Excess of power of [government] employees in the exercise of their functions 19, Rape 13, Poisoning 2, Escapes from prisons and presidios 16, Falsification of public documents 4, Falsification of private deeds 1, Faults committed in judicial deeds 1, Blows and bad treatment 1, Homicide 10, Blows and wounds 166, Injuries 102, Immorality and scandalous deeds 5, Incest 1, Arson 9, Perjury 1, Theft with arms 5, Thefts and swindling 201, Resistance to authority 14, Abduction (kidnapping) 16, Pillage 75, Sedition and Rebellion 1, Vagabondage and bad conduct 4.

"Judgments pronounced for 1846: Condemned to strangulation (garrote) 11, Condemned to the presidio with public labor 438, Condemned to correctional detention 250, Condemned to public whipping 43, Condemned to exhibition 1, Condemned to suspension and deprivation of work 13, Condemned to pay a fine and pecuniary damages 39, Condemned to banishment 2."

What did "exhibition" mean? Were criminals exposed to public ridicule?

In 1847, the crimes decreased numerically but perhaps this is due to the fact that the list is longer than the previous year. For crimes and offenses brought to the courts:

"Attacks 6, Adultery 1, Carrying of prohibited arms 5, Arbitrary arrests 28, Attempted robbery 1, Abuse of power 10, Rape with use of force 7, Simple rape 4, False witness and perjury 1, Escape from prison 16, Falsification of public documents 0, Falsification of private deeds 5, Assault and ill treatment 12, Homicide 12, Wounds and contusions 117, Immorality and scandal 11, Arson 6, Incest 2, Infanticide 1, Theft, embezzlement and swindling 184, Resistance and lack of respect for justice 15, Abduction 11, Sacrilegious theft 2, Theft in a band with arms 5, Suicide 3, Pillage 67, Superstition 1, Sedition and outbreaks 1, Vagabondage and bad conduct 8."

Compared to our times, the crimes listed were quite limited in type and number. I presume sacrilegious theft means stealing from church, but what constitutes superstition? Or simple rape?

Judgments pronounced for 1847: "Capital punishment by strangulation 8, Public labor 293, Correctional detention 185, Public whipping 67, Suspension or deprivation of work 6, Exhibition 1, and Banishment 4."

Would you have felt safe in old Manila, given these statistics? Yes, but I would still prefer to live in the 21st century.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Mind the hip

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"WAS there a hip fracture?"

That's usually the first question I ask whenever I hear of elderly relatives or family friends having a fall. If a hip fracture is involved, I get quite worried because these injuries can be quite serious.

I thought of writing about this problem because Mama Raquel, the feisty 87-year-old former public school teacher whom I wrote about the other week, had a bad fall a few days ago and sustained a hip fracture.

I'm going to share some basic medical information on hip fractures, taken mainly from the Merck Manual. In the United States alone, there are some 270,000 hip fractures each year, 90 percent of them occurring in people older than 60. I haven't been able to find figures for the Philippines, but I am certain they run into several thousands each year. And what's so alarming about these hip fractures is that people actually die from complications, which I will explain shortly.

Types of hip fractures

I've realized many Filipinos actually have difficulty understanding what's involved in a hip fracture. In Filipino, the hip is *balakang* but it's thought of mainly as one big bone, sometimes even confused with the pelvis. When we talk about hip fractures, we're actually referring to the femur or the thigh bone.

There are two most common types of hip fractures. One involves the neck of the femur, also called a subcapital hip fracture. The other common type of hip fracture occurs on the large bony bumps of the femur, where muscles are usually attached. These are called intertrochanteric fractures.

If the hip fracture is not too severe, an orthopedic surgeon will repair the damage by inserting metal pins to support the femoral head. In more serious injuries, the femur head may have to be replaced with a prosthesis (artificial part). This is called a partial hip replacement. If the damage is even more extensive, a total hip replacement may be needed, replacing the head as well as the socket in which the femoral head is inserted.

The surgery involved may sound intimidating but the results can be quite dramatic, with patients able to walk soon after surgery, with the help of course of crutches or a walker. The artificial joints usually last a lifetime, although in physically active or heavy patients, the joint may have to be replaced after 10 or 20 years.

The dangers of hip fractures

People are often shocked when a relative dies a few days after a fall. Because the elderly fall so often, people begin to take those accidents for granted, thinking that after a few days of bed rest, the patient will be all right.

If the hip or the pelvis is fractured, the fall can have fatal consequences. What happens here is that following the injury, the patient is unable to move around. This immobilization, plus the swelling of the area around the fracture, causes problems for blood circulation. Blood clots or emboli could develop and if these migrate into the lungs and block a lung artery, you have a pulmonary embolism, which can kill the patient.

This is why it's so important that each fall be taken seriously. An X-ray should be taken to see if there was a hip fracture and if there was, to have surgery as soon as possible after the injury.

Prevention

Repairing a hip fracture, and going through rehabilitation, can be expensive. Professional fees alone can run up to P40,000 or P50,000 in private hospitals. Besides the professional fees, there are several more thousands of pesos that will go into paying for the use of the operating room, hospitalization, medicine and long-term rehabilitation.

Preventing hip fractures actually starts early in life. The reason it's mainly elderly patients who suffer these fractures is that they may already be suffering from osteoporosis or a loss of bone mass. The bones become brittle—*parang biskwit* (like biscuits), a doctor friend describes rather graphically. The prevention of osteoporosis should start early, especially for women, and involves weight-bearing exercise (aerobics, jogging or, simply, walking), as well as calcium and vitamin D. The latter isn't a problem in a sunlight-rich country like the Philippines. Calcium is another matter. We need at least 1,500 milligrams daily, from food sources (dairy products as well as, and I was surprised with the calcium content here, seaweed) or from tablets.

For the elderly, especially if they are osteoporotic, extra care needs to be taken to prevent falls. Many families, and the elderly themselves, think that falls occur mainly on stairs, or when they're outdoors walking on rough pavement. But the statistics, at least from the United States, show that most falls actually happen on level ground, and within homes. It may be that people are actually more careless when they're on familiar ground. A common cause, too, of accidents on level ground are carpets which are not secured, or with edges on which the elderly may stumble.

Houses need to be checked as well for unnecessary ledges, especially in the toilet. Toilet seats are themselves problematic: they are often so low that an elderly person loses balance while trying to sit or get up. Bath tubs and shower stalls need to have rubber mats and to be secured with rails.

Actually many of the precautions taken for the toilet apply as well to the house in general. Rails should be placed not just in the bathroom but next to stairs and ramps. And it's not just the toilet seat that can throw an elderly patient off balance—even the dining room chairs, or a sofa, may be too low.

After Mama Raquel's fall, we had to do a thorough check to find out if there were other reasons why she fell. We had to check if she had a history of fainting or dizziness (vertigo is quite common with elderly people). We checked, too, if she was taking certain medicines that made her drowsy (this is quite common with elderly patients and relatives don't realize these drugs can increase the risks of falls).

After all the check-ups, it seemed it might have been her poor eyesight that had caused the fall. She had been diagnosed with cataracts some years back but did not want them operated, rationalizing that her other eye was still good. Unfortunately, we need two good eyes to have depth perception.

Finally, you may need to check those walking canes. Ironically, those canes can sometimes cause falls, especially if the patient has poor eyesight. Walkers are more secure, but then, do be aware that some elderly patients will resist them for being cumbersome or unsightly.

Other elderly patients fear the walkers as a sign of growing dependence. Do guard against the temptation to sequester an elderly relative after a fall. The worst thing that can happen is making the elderly feel even more helpless. Orthopedic and rehabilitation doctors will tell you it's very important to keep the elderly as active as possible, both to prevent as well as to heal hip fractures.

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An unthinkable solution to the debt crisis

A WHOPPING one-third of our national budget for 2005 is being allotted for debt servicing (payment for interests and amortizations), just so the government will be able to get more loans in the future. Our debt will then only grow bigger and bigger and, if not solved in due time, continually eat up a huge chunk of our budget every year.

While the budget deficit has become a serious problem, the Arroyo administration and our lawmakers wouldn't consider the unthinkable proposal: plead with our foreign creditors to condone some, if not all, of our debts. Such proposal may sound absurd, but we have our own justifiable reasons for doing so.

First, historically, the loans started to pile up in an era of tyranny, during the martial law regime of Ferdinand Marcos. To plead for such condonation might not be justifiable if the loans were used for the benefit of our people; but most of these loans ended up in private, confidential offshore bank accounts. The creditors were fully aware of this practice, but they continued to extend more loans to the Marcos government.

Second, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund were supposedly established to primarily assist poverty-stricken nations, not dictate on them as to what national policies they should implement. Instead, as history has shown, these nations were compelled to introduce new programs, adopt new policies and institute structural "reforms" just to qualify for more borrowings to pay off their debts. Thus, the WB and IMF impositions only placed poor nations, such as the Philippines, in a worse situation—as their governments were forced to cut on welfare spending and agree to liberalization even before they could compete fairly in the global market, thereby allowing transnational corporations to exploit their local markets and environment without restraint.

With no one else to turn to for help, the Philippines accepted the WB and IMF proposals without analyzing their repercussions.

Clearly, it is not entirely our fault that the country is in such dire straits. While these monetary institutions may have fulfilled their roles as creditors, they are also partly responsible for the debt crisis we have fallen into. Three million pesos may seem to be a staggering amount for us, but it is loose change to them. If rules must be rules and they wouldn't agree to our full absolution from our debt obligations, we should bargain for a lesser amount. A similar concession had been given in the past; with full support from our allies, I don't see any reason why this can't be done again.

—MARLON SISON,
student, De La Salle University,
marlon_ledd@hotmail.com

Butterflies fluttering in concrete jungles of MM

PLEASE allow us to point out a factual error in your story "A butterfly farm in Marikina" by Luige del Puerto. (PDI, 7/22/04)

It is not only in Quezon City and in Marikina, where one can find "a butterfly fluttering in the concrete jungles of Metro Manila." Rizal Park in Manila has its own Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion where thousands of visitors, mostly public schoolchildren can witness first hand the butterflies' entire life cycle—from being eggs to becoming fully grown "winged wonders." The Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, developed and managed by the Clean and Green Foundation Inc., is located at the Teodoro Valencia Circle in Rizal Park, Manila and is open seven days a week from eight o'clock in the morning to five o'clock in the afternoon.

Last March, the city government of Pasig opened to the public its very own Butterfly Exhibit Area inside the 20-hectare Pasig Rainforest and Water Park in Barangay Maybunga. It also breeds its own butterflies, which are for public viewing. Pasig City's Butterfly Exhibit Area was a joint undertaking of the Pasig City government and the C&GFI.

We are glad that more local government units in Metro Manila are developing their own butterfly farms so that our people do not have to go far to see these enchanting butterflies in flight.

—ELOISA I. ZULUETA,
managing director,
The Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion,
Teodoro Valencia Circle,
Rizal Park, Manila

Simple explanation for falling peso, anyone?

MAY I request your paper to write in simple language why the value of our Philippine peso keeps on falling and why our government officials/economists cannot do something about it? Is this something beyond their control? Can the business sector (which includes the banking sector), private and public sector help solve this problem? If yes, how? Who benefits from the continuing peso devaluation? Do the peso evaluation and the increase in prices of consumer goods go hand in hand?

I hope your paper will find time to write about this subject for the benefit of many ordinary Filipinos like me who just can't understand the explanation being given by our government officials, especially the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials and our bright economists, every time there is a peso devaluation and a new increase in the prices of basic commodities.

—ISAAC REYES,
North Sunset Avenue,
West Covina, CA 91790

Redefining RP-US ties

I KNOW that recently, INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros lost his gallstones. Good to have him back, doing what only he does best. My fear now is that he may be losing his grip.

According to De Quiros, "we do not need to break our ties with America, but we do need to redefine them in the context of solidarity with the peoples of the world..." Ain't gonna happen, my friend. Nobody's breaking "ties" and, more to the point, nothing's going to change.

The US-RP alliance is doomed to last forever, unfortunately for US taxpayers—a congenitally defective creation, in my opinion, joined at the hip by dollars and cents from the start; beancounter logic that might persuade my favorite INQUIRER columnist to forget about all that "context of solidarity" bull, reconnect the dots and just move on.

—ELLIOTT ANDERSON,
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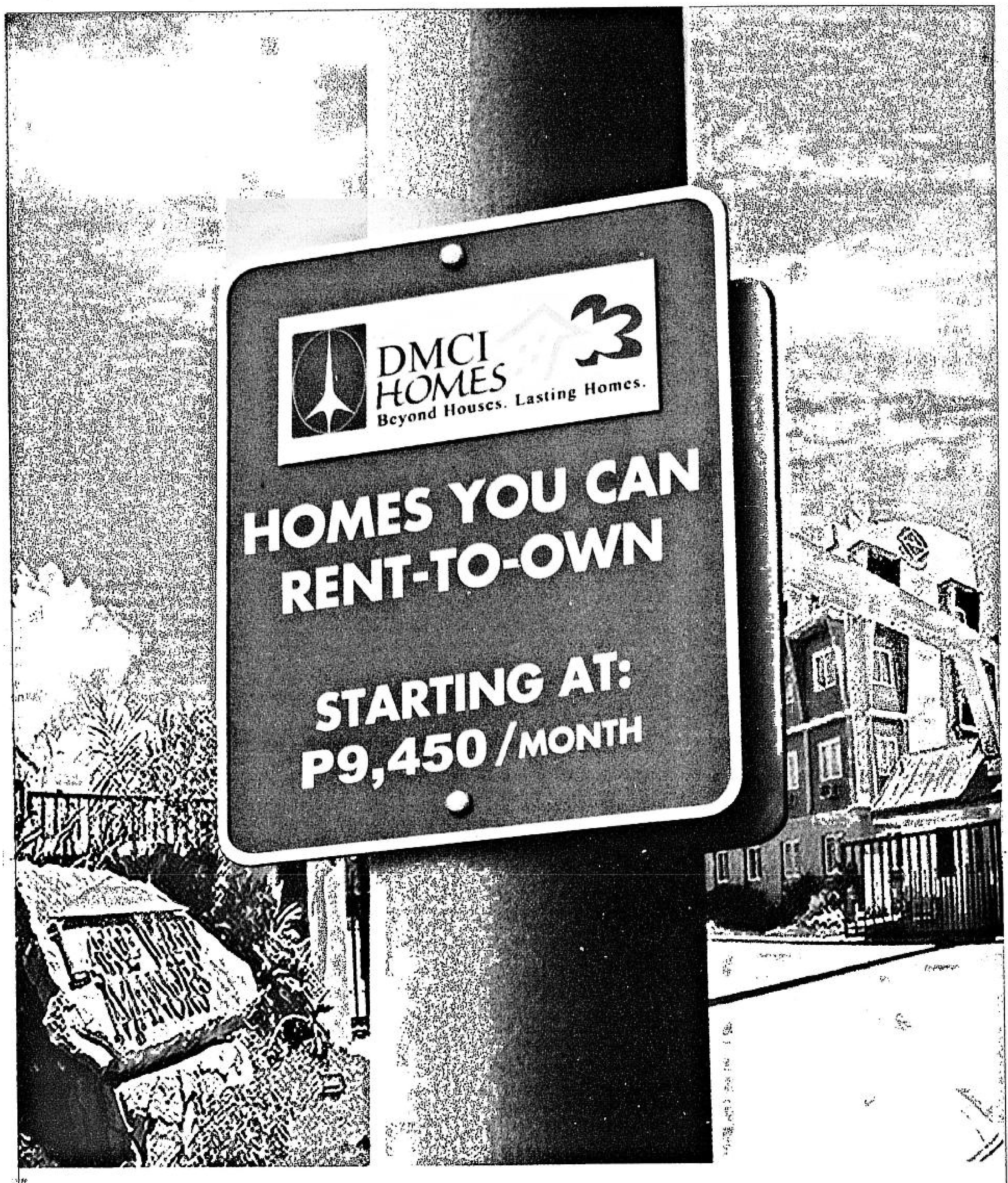
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Question of the Week

With over 70 provincial journalists killed in the Philippines since 1986, what do you think should be done to finally end the killings?

Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wil each receiv a Guyito stuffd toy! ☺*

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Gambling in Cotabato gov's town worsens

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Gambling in the hometown of the governor of North Cotabato has gotten so bad that even its officials bet on illegal numbers games.

Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said illegal gambling thrives with the protection of policemen.

"I cannot allow this situation to continue in own hometown...this is a big shame," he said.

Piñol blamed town police chief Insp. Amalia Soliven and recommended her relief.

Soliven left her office this week upon orders of Supt. Melchor Loyola, the provincial police chief.

Piñol said the police should use an iron hand to curb illegal gambling in M'lang or "we have no business being in the government."

Piñol also called on local officials of the town to "be true to their commitment and responsibility to the people."

Joselito, Piñol's brother, is vice mayor of the town.

Piñol also urged the religious sector to "come out and wage a war with me against this problem."

"We can't allow our town to deteriorate...I can only do so much as your governor," he said.

Aside from Soliven, Piñol also caused the relief of Kidapawan City police chief Chief Insp. Alexander Tagum for his alleged role in the disappearance of a suspected thief in July.

Piñol said the disappearance of Alvin Valdez has already gained international attention.

"This has gained international attention...I deemed it right to relieve Tagum," Piñol said.

But Tagum said he has no role in the disappearance.

He said a court even dismissed the petition for writ of *habeas corpus* filed by Valdez's family against him.

Mayor Rodolfo Gantuanco said he suspects that politics was behind Tagum's relief.

The provincial chapter of the Officers of the Philippine National Police Academy Alumni Association Inc., said Piñol's action was meant to satisfy his personal interest. *Jeffrey M. Tupas and Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

REBELS AGAINST WAR EXERCISES
Philippine Independent Church Bishop Felixberto Calang looks on as Luis Jalandoni, chair of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines Peace Panel and Maulana Alonto, a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace panel sign a unity statement against the conduct of US-RP war games in the country, during a forum on sovereignty and peace on Monday.

Cory hacienda retrenching workers

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—The reduction of the workforce of the Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) was a business decision and a purely labor issue, a representative of HLI management said here.

The HLI issued the statement in reaction to accusations of workers that the ongoing mass layoff in the company was depriving them of their rights to enjoy the full benefits of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

But the workers insisted that the layoff and the HLI's stock distribution program were intertwined as the basis of shares of stock given them were the "man days" they rendered in the farms. This means that if they did not work, they would not receive any shares of stock.

The workers are now asking the Department of Agrarian Reform to undertake its mandate and review the HLI stock distribution program as should have been in 2000, 10 years after the program was implemented.

HLI was touted as a showcase in corporate agrarian reform implemented during the term of former President Corazon Aquino in her own family's Hacienda Luisita.

The HLI was an intermediary corporation organized to implement the stock distribution program of the CARL during Aquino's term.

Thirty percent of the company is owned by the CARL beneficiaries while 70 percent is owned by the Tarlac Development Corp. and the Luisita Realty, both controlled by the Cojuangco family.

HLI has 5,337 workers.

Explanation

The workers said they wanted an independent auditor to look at the books of the HLI and see why and how the company had been incurring losses to merit a reduction in the workforce.

The workers said they did not recognize the retrenchment and would continue their protest. They said they would file charges of unfair labor practice against the HLI management before the Department of Labor and Employment.

On Monday, about 1,000 workers of the HLI rallied here to protest what they described as arbitrary retrenchment of some 300 permanent and seasonal workers, including the president and nine other officers of their workers' union, effective Oct. 1.

Rene Galang, president of the United Luisita Workers Union (ULWU), said the retrenchment violated fair labor practice.

Galang said the HLI management should first exhaust all possible cost cutting measures and retrenchment should be the last recourse.

He said if retrenchment was unavoidable, union officers should be the last to go because their co-workers asked them to represent them and ensure they get fair bargain with management.

So far, 10 of the 19 members of the ULWU board have been retrenched.

Downsizing

Romeo Ecraela, HLI corporate affairs manager, said the management followed a set of criteria in downsizing the HLI workforce. He said this based on the position and the extent that each reduction in position would affect the overall operations.

"The positions that were removed were those that would have the least effect in the operation of the HLI based on level of skill and regularity of work to be done," Ecraela said.

He said the retrenched workers, while guaranteed to still receive their pay up to Sept. 30, "were no longer required to report for work because management recognizes the sensitivity of the situation."

"Emotions are high and this is a preventive measure to thwart any untoward action resulting from the retrenchment," he added.

Emmanuel Cochico, HLI corporate secretary, gave as reasons for the retrenchment the escalating cost of production as well as the fluctuating prices of sugar in the world and domestic market. He said these had "caused serious financial problem for the company."

He said the HLI suffered a net loss of P215,111,467 in 2002-2003 and was expected to incur another loss of P165,490,001 in 2003-2004.

"To arrest the alarming development, the company has to implement drastic cost cutting measures," Cochico told the workers.

Tabloid reporter files beating raps vs press club exec

CALAMBA CITY—A correspondent of tabloid Taliba yesterday filed complaints of physical injury and grave threat before the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group office here against Waldy Carbonell, an officer of the National Press Club (NPC) who heads an investigation of the killing of Laguna journalist Noel Villarante.

Roy Tomandao, 31, a resident of Los Baños, accused Carbonell of beating him up on Aug. 21 at Tomandao's house in Sta. Cruz town.

He said the altercation stemmed from an item he wrote in his column published in the community paper The Southern Tagalog Herald on July 4.

Tomandao complained that Carbonell, a former anchor of a news program of the National Broadcasting Corp. Channel 4, repeatedly hit him in the head, face and chest while throwing invectives at him. A medico-legal report at this camp said the complainant suffered a busted upper lip.

Tomandao said he tried to fight back but decided not to after one of Carbonell's alleged two armed bodyguards drew a gun. He said more than a dozen people witnessed the incident.

Carbonell brushed off Tomandao's accusations, saying the complainant was "being used by a media group in Laguna to discredit our investigation."

"We had no physical altercation whatsoever. Being a professor of journalism, I just lectured him on media ethics. Maybe he was hurt with what I had said because what he did was wrong," he told the INQUIRER.

Carbonell tried to persuade this correspondent to ignore the incident and not write about the story. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Shabu queen' draws 4-year prison term

BACOLOD CITY—A 72-year-old widow, known as the "shabu queen" of this city, was sentenced to four years imprisonment for selling illegal drugs to an uncover policeman in a buy-bust operation in 1999.

Judge Ray Alan Drilon convicted Pilar Buenafe Ruiz who was accused of possessing six grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) in violation of Republic Act 6425.

The court sentenced Ruiz to one year, one month and 11 days to four years and two months.

This was the second time that the judge convicted Ruiz for selling drugs. The first was in July where she was meted with six to 12 years imprisonment.

Police records showed that Ruiz has 15 other pending drug cases.

In her second case, Ruiz was accused of selling shabu to an undercover policeman during a buy-bust operation Aug. 26, 1999.

Police officer Rene Lanado of the police narcotics group told the court that he bought P200 worth of shabu from Ruiz at Purok Seresa in Barangay 27 on Aug. 26, 1999.

After receiving a deck of illegal substance from Ruiz, he immediately identified himself as a police officer and arrested her. When he searched her pocket, he said he found 12 other small packs containing shabu.

Ruiz claimed that she was framed up but the judge did not give weight to her alibi, saying it was a "shop-worn defense of those accused in drug related cases."

"For this claim to prosper the defense must adduce clear and convincing evidence . . .," the judge said. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Tourism office to sell hotels, other gov't assets

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Philippine Tourism Authority is selling or leasing 40 of its premier assets, including 11 hotels it has been subsidizing for years as the government continues to cut back its expenditures for the next two years, a member of the PTA board said here.

Among these are PTA facilities within the walled city of Intramuros in Manila and the Marcos Park in Tuba, Benguet, where the damaged bust of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos still looms.

But the PTA considers its auction of such prime properties as a "divestment" because it plans to develop new tourism facilities in Palawan, Leyte and Cagayan Valley, Carlos Honorio Estepa, a PTA board member, said.

"The government is planning to invest in tourism to draw alternative revenues to the country in these times of crisis," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon, former tourism secretary, had gambled on Intramuros as the premiere tourism-drawing venue for Metro Manila.

The walled city had drawn record domestic tourists in 2003 when the Philippines became the benefiting country of the World Tourism Organization last year.

The PTA said the agency failed to reach its target revenue, and had drawn fewer foreign tourists in 2003 compared to 2002.

PDI FILE PHOTO

THE CONTROVERSIAL Marcos bust, one of the pieces of property that the PTA may sell to generate funds for the government.

More gambling

A PTA source said some of the PTA facilities had been offered as gaming facilities instead to the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Pagcor is considering a restaurant in Rosario, La Union, and the Banaue Hotel in Ifugao, which overlooks the world famous rice terraces, the source said.

Estepa conducted an inventory of PTA's non-performing assets in 2003, after he noted that many PTA-run facilities had been losing money.

Banaue Hotel is one of three facilities that still earned despite the government subsidy.

But the Mount Data Hotel, one of the oldest PTA facilities located in Bauko, Mt. Province, is reportedly one of the properties scheduled for closure by yearend, according to the Philippine Information Agency.

A PIA report quoted Dolores Theodore, Mt. Data hotel manager, who informed Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog about the facility's impending shutdown.

The Mt. Province provincial board has asked Malacañang to spare the hotel, where slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg and former President Corazon Aquino signed a 1987 peace agreement that ended hostilities between the government and Balweg's militia.

Private sector

Estepa said the PTA board issued its latest communication on July 6, authorizing the agency to offer "all of its properties, whether operating or not operating, around the Philippines for lease or joint venture to the private sector."

"We have decided that it would be more wasteful to simply shut them down. Studies have been started by the corporate planning office and the corporate investments office to draw up the terms of reference for each of the 40 assets," he said.

"This is a complete reversal for PTA. Before, the agency had been insistent on running these facilities on its own. But we decided that success can be farmed back to the private sector," Estepa said.

PTA will act cautiously on the auction of controversial properties like the Marcos Park. A Benguet regional trial court judge had ruled that the park was forcibly obtained by the PTA during martial law and it must be returned to Ibaloi claimants based in Tuba, Benguet.

The claimants have wrested control over many of the PTA facilities there.

Estepa said PTA prefers to invest in new deals such as a property in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, where the United States military once operated an airport.

"But that does not mean the old assets have gone down in value. We lost revenues only because of the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) scare last year and the successive world financial crises," he said.

Suspect in radioman's slaying seeks transfer

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The prosecution panel has opposed the petition for transfer filed by the suspect in the June 17 murder of radioman Ely Binoya.

Ephraim Englis, the alleged mastermind in the killing of Binoya, filed a petition at the court last week asking for his transfer from the General Santos City jail to the Sarangani provincial jail.

The suspect cited as main reason the shoot-to-kill order issued against him by Supt. Willie Dangane, city police chief.

Dangane, who considered Englis a dangerous man, ordered his men to shoot the suspect if he resisted arrest.

This was the reason the family of the suspect approached Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez to help facilitate his surrender.

The governor admitted late last week that he played a role in the surrender of the Binoya murder suspect. But Dominguez clarified he just wanted to ensure the peaceful surrender of the suspect after the family asked for his help.

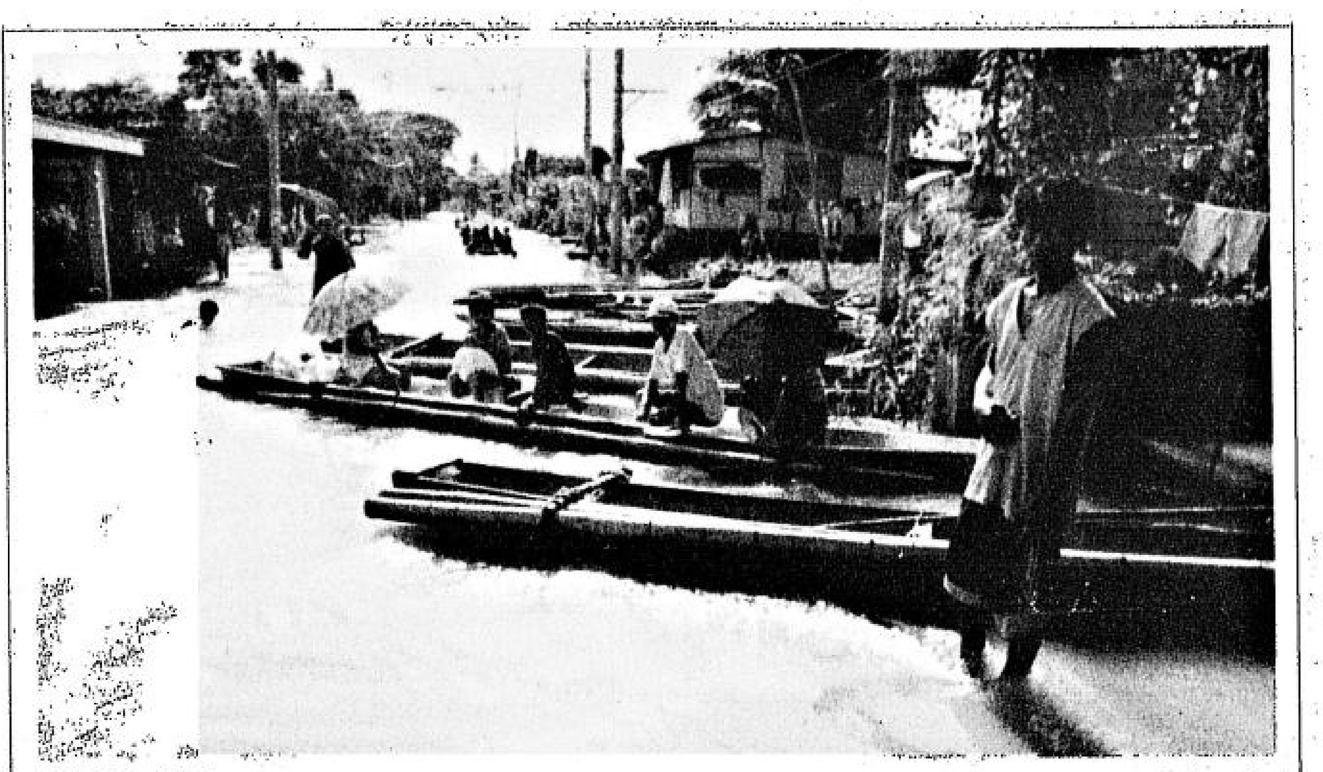
He said Englis must answer the charges filed against him in court.

The suspect, along with another suspect Alfonso Tuquero, surrendered to Sarangani police director Supt. Casemiro Medes last week at the Makro Department Store in Davao City after several days of negotiations.

During the presentation to the media, Englis denied any involvement in the killing of Binoya.

Andres Lorenzo, member of the prosecution panel, said there was no threat to the suspect's life as the city jail is not under the police or the city government but directly under the management and supervision of the BJMP.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau



BOAT LANE ROGER MARGALLO/PDI PHOTO

Wheeled vehicles disappeared in the streets of Calasiao, Pangasinan and in their place came wooden boats at the height of flooding in the town following record rainfall last week.

ROUNDUP

Escapee captured

ROXAS CITY—Police on Sunday captured an escapee, three days after he escaped from his detention cell at the police station in President Roxas town in Capiz. Ernie Bacinillo, 20, who is facing a robbery case, was caught after residents reported hearing gunfire in Pilar town. It turned out that Bacinillo used the M-16 rifle he took from two policemen in shooting at birds. Bacinillo walked out of the police station on Thursday and took the Armalite and the 9 mm pistol of PO2 Jose Algarne and Fraklin Blanco, who were both asleep after going on patrol at the town proper. The two now face investigation.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

Drug pusher slain

ROXAS CITY—A suspected drug pusher was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen on Aug. 25 in Barangay Cagay here. Supt. Rene Aspera, Roxas police director, said Rassel Aporta was riding his motorcycle when the assailants fired at him. The two used the victim's motorcycle in fleeing. Police said the killing could be the result of a drug deal turned sour. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Rob suspect killed

LAGAWE, Ifugao—A suspected member of a robbery group operating in Ifugao was killed while another was arrested during an encounter with the police in Hungduan town on Sunday. Chief Insp. Salonga Abbugao, acting chief of the Ifugao police's mobile group, identified the fatality as Rommel Buya, an escapee from the Ifugao provincial jail. Police said Buya's companions fought with Hungduan policemen, who were conducting a manhunt operation in the boundary of Hungduan and Tinoc towns on Sunday morning. At the height of the gunfight, Buya's companions escaped and left their firearms.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mindoro tourism meet

CALAPAN CITY—The three-day 10th Southern Tagalog Tourism Council Assembly will be hosted for the first time in Oriental Mindoro in September. Some 300 local tourism council officers and resort owners from Cavite; Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan are expected to participate. The organizers of the event are the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Tourism Office, Provincial Tourism Council and Oriental Mindoro Tourism Officers and Tourism Coordinators Association.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P120M for agrarian projects

CITY OF CALAPAN—Some P120 million in foreign-assisted projects are being implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform in Oriental Mindoro. DAR projects are being made under the agrarian reform infrastructure support projects and DAR-Asian Development Bank agrarian reform communities project, according to a news release. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the ADB are allocating funds for the two projects: Gloria town, P61.63 million; Pola town, P18 million; Socorro, P28 million; San Teodoro town, P4 million; Calapan City's pump communal irrigation project, P3.67 million and farm-to-market road in Sitio Kilokilo, P5.2 million.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Port zone delineation

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Oriental Mindoro Provincial Development Council (PDC) approved a resolution endorsing the plan of the Regional Development Council (RDC)-Mimaropa and Philippine Ports Authority to delineate ports in the towns of Pola, Roxas and Mansalay. Mansalay port will be an alternate to Roxas port, which is currently the route for the Strong Republic Nautical Highway. The Pola port will open the province to the nearby islands of Marinduque and Romblon. The PDC also approved a resolution endorsing RDC's plan to build the Labasan Bridge in Bongabong.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tricycle fare hike

COTABATO CITY—After 10 years of waiting, the city government finally granted the demand of tricycle drivers here for a P1 fare increase. The city government said it had no choice but to grant the increase because of high fuel costs. Councilor Eduardo Rabago, however, said only tricycle drivers displaying the fare matrix are authorized to collect the new rate. Rabago, the council's transport committee chair, said tricycle drivers have to get the matrix from the licensing division of the city treasurer's office.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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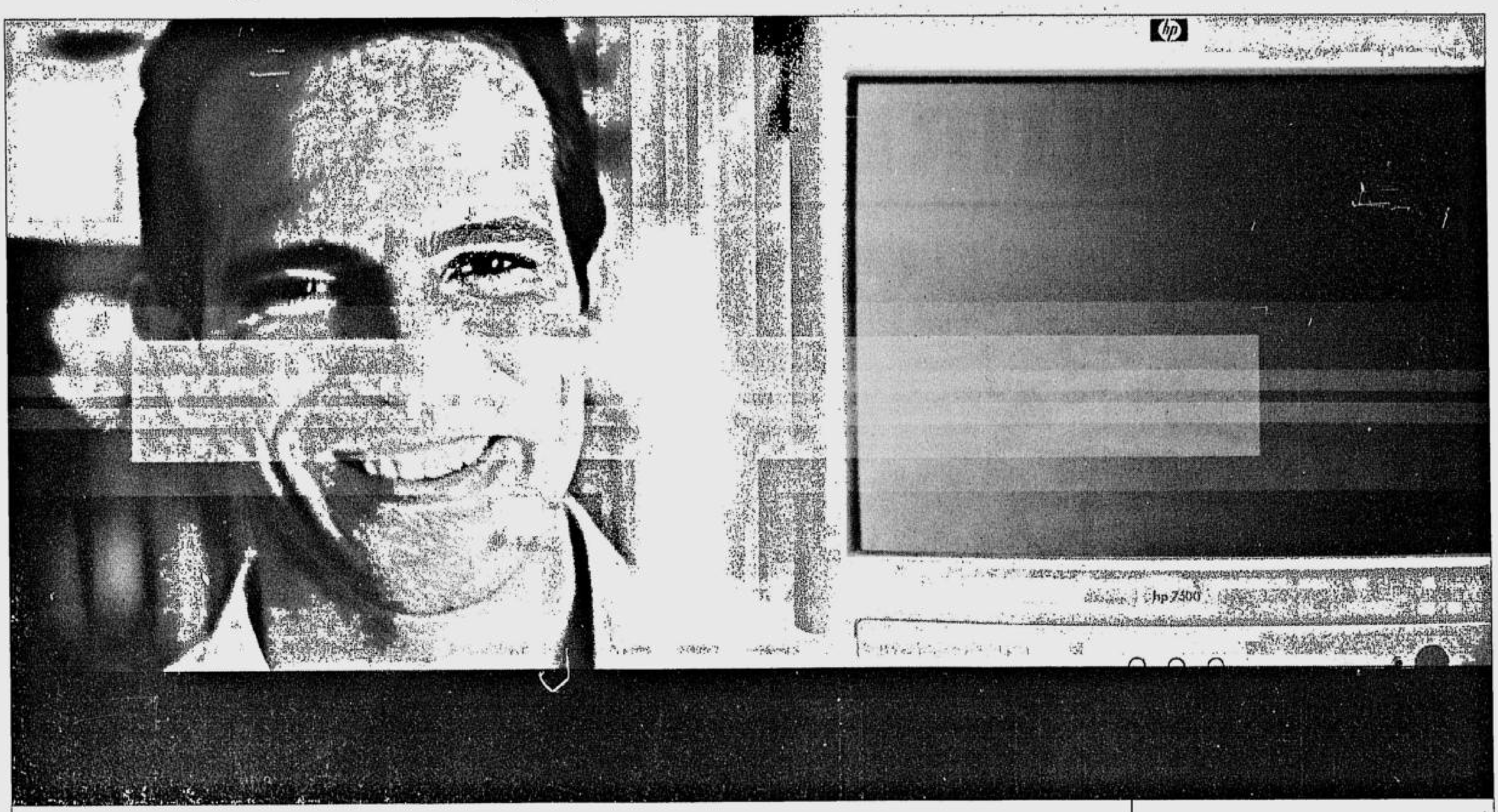

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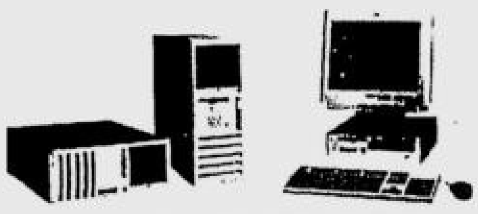

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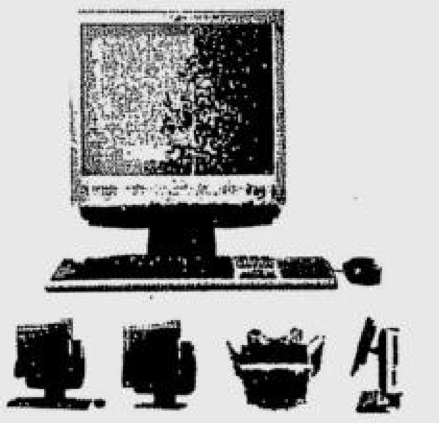

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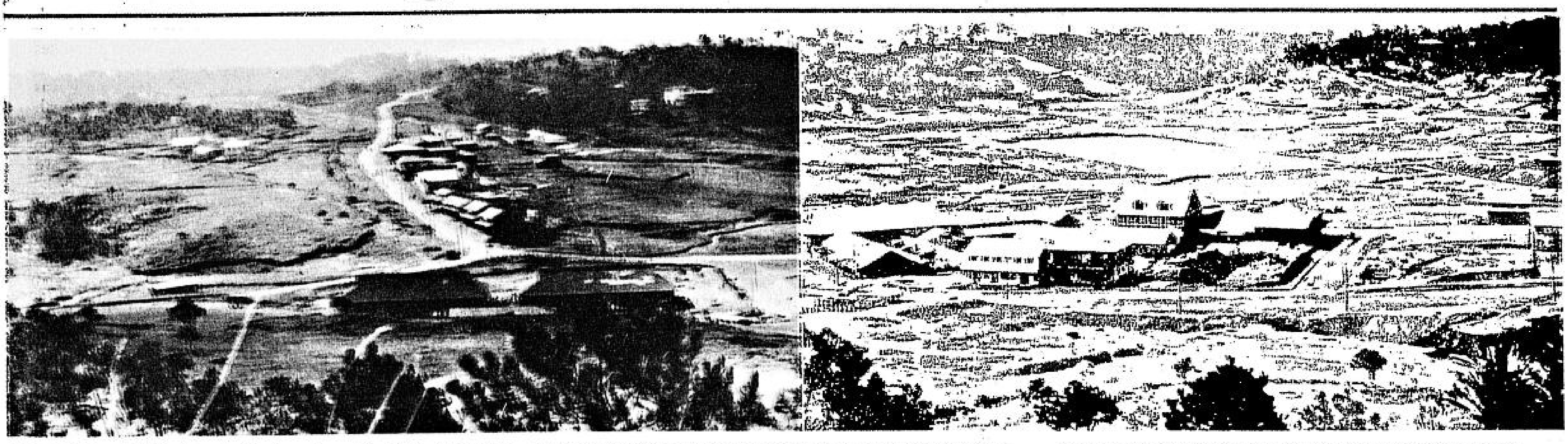
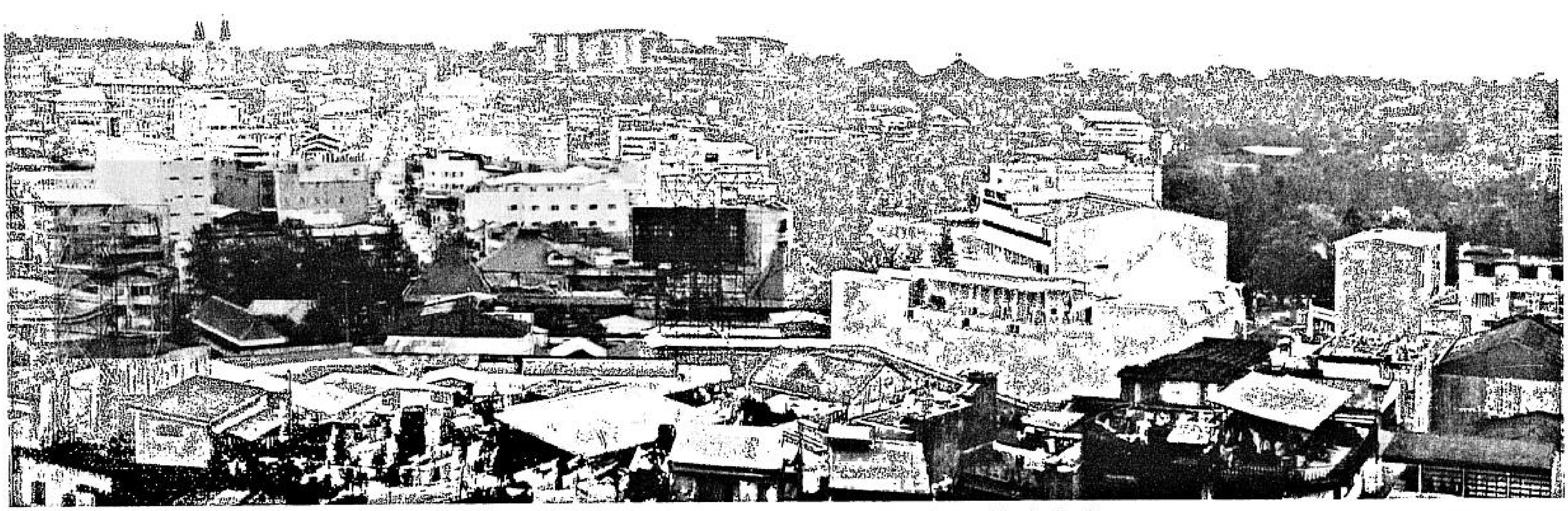


SESSION Road (left), Baguio City's main road in 1914, shows the first Japanese, Chinese and American stores. The road was a narrow lane and only one side was lined with small buildings and shops. In the foreground are the first two wooden buildings of the market completed in 1908. (Right) A view of the early business district and of the newly enclosed lagoon that later became the Burnham Lake. At the center is the H.P. Whitmarsh's Benguet Commercial Co., the city's first and largest general merchandise store. The photos, kept in the US National Archives, appeared in the books, "Japanese Pioneers in the Northern Philippine Highlands: A Centennial Tribute, 1903-2003" (FJFNLI, 2004) and "City of Pines, The Origins of Baguio as a Colonial Hill Station and Regional Capital" (A-Seven Publishing, 1999), and reproduced with permission from the publishers.



THE SAME area 90 years later, with the addition to the city's landscape, the massive SM City Baguio, occupying Luneta Hill at the top of Session Road.

OMPONG TAN/CONTRIBUTOR

What will Burnham say about Baguio today?

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

DAYS after last week's typhoon-induced rains, a gaping hole opened at the foot of a bust of Daniel Burnham, the American architect who designed Baguio City for the United States colonial government in the early 1900s.

That hole in a section of the park quickly spawned jokes about how Baguio's "creator" is now "turning in his grave."

"He is angry because of the malls that have invaded a city he built for only 30,000 residents in 1909," went one joke.

A building consultant said Burnham dug that new "grave" for the "next architect" who will attempt to redesign Baguio to compensate for its modern panorama dominated by commercial billboards.

Colleen Lacsamana, a government urban planner, said it had been very hard to fill in Burnham's shoes.

Exactly 95 years today, after Baguio was officially chartered, architects are still able to mine Burnham's original design for nuggets of wisdom about how the city can cope with intrusive structures, such as malls, she said.

Redesign

Lacsamana's colleagues at the Saint Louis University's environment and habitat planning and urban planning course have devoted their time redesigning according to "the Burnham Plan."

Shortly before Baguio's official charter birth, Burnham introduced the "Burnham Plan" to Chicago that contained a principle he had already applied to Baguio.

"With roots in the City Beautiful movement, the plan proposed an extensive, six-county open-space system that has kept streams, rivers, lake edges and forests in the public realm; it also identified sensitive landscapes as areas to be protected," wrote architect David Takesuye for the Urban Architects Institute website.

Burnham's decision to provide road systems that always direct motorists back to Session Road in the downtown area helped ease the uncomfortably slow city traffic, the SLU class found.

Growth centers

Burnham also had the foresight to provide neighboring growth centers that allowed city planners to propose the creation of new central business districts outside downtown.

His road network forces commercial development to grow toward the outskirts.

Burnham's 1909 growth centers were, of course, more conservative, focusing only on the economic ability of the Baguio Country Club and Brent School to draw their own commercial businesses, Lacsamana said.

"No one (in the 1900s) would have foreseen a (shopping mall) towering over Burnham Park," she said.

"Burnham was the top proponent of the 'Beautiful Cities Movement' in his time. His designs are considered classics, including his blueprints for a garden landscape that he turned into a city. Baguio City, in fact."

Lifestyle check

But few historians have credited Burnham enough about Baguio's modernization. The commonly accepted wisdom is that Burnham's design no longer fits its modern lifestyle.

Local population and infrastructure growth has exceeded the national average, earning it the rank of the fastest growing metropolis between 1995 and 2000.

Statistically, each square kilometer of Baguio's 57-sq.-km territory houses 5,000 people, said Lacsamana. This is a growth pattern that has attracted investors, such as shopping malls, despite problems with water, she said.

But Burnham's design has proven beneficial even in these times of fast cars and high heels. The small roads and residential development responds only to small town economics.

"In the end, malls are discovering that Baguio residents still prefer small, comfortable shops. Perhaps the only businesses that it would embrace wholly are universities," Lacsamana said.

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CBCP urges clergy to give cash to gov't

From page A1

the common welfare."

He had been asking wealthy people to help the government, he said, but "there's been no answer from them."

There were at least 70 priests and bishops in his archdiocese, Capalla noted. A priest receives a monthly allowance of P4,000, and a bishop, P10,000. He believed Davao could start the ball rolling. Donating this much was "easier said than done ... but possible," he said.

He urged students to help by denying themselves "small luxuries" like shopping and snacks. "I do not care much about the amount that we can pool [together]," Capalla said. "What is important is the gesture ... something that I'd like everyone to follow."

With all Catholics doing the same, an economic collapse would be prevented, he said.

Addressing priests and nuns, the bishop cited the importance of the Church as a symbol of hope. The "lifestyle of the church" affected young people's perception of life as a whole, he said. "The Church thrives when it is very poor and with many limitations. But when we live in affluence, elegance, richness, the faith is weakened."

Fr. Reynaldo Roque, media director of the Davao archdiocese, said Capalla's call was likely to be heeded by all priests like himself, although "it would be a challenge."

Sister Carmencita Pintac of the Daughters of St. Anne also said she was willing to give up her personal allowance. Faith as the bread of life could be realized only if one had "a heart for the people," she said.

Campaign of sharing

Having launched the campaign of sharing, Capalla called attention to what he considered the more serious problem.

In a CBCP statement released yesterday, Capalla said: "When abject poverty is getting rampant and pervasive, affecting more and more people and being attributed to graft and corruption, there is a serious crisis. And it is moral."

He said this was reflected in "social, political, cultural and economic disorders [and] come under the overall heading of criminalities and immoralities."

In a separate statement, Ernie Gonzales, CBCP research director, said it was useless to give the government money: "What is the use of trying to equip this government with all the money it needs if it will only be used to pay our external debts that were not spent for the good of the people?"

Although his statement was also distributed by the CBCP, the conference officials clarified that Gonzales was speaking as director of the University of Santo Tomas Research Center and chair of Economics of the National Research Council of the Philippines.

But another archbishop, Oscar Cruz of Pangasinan, said he was optimistic that the Philippines would weather the present crisis. "We have survived harder times," he pointed out.

On Sunday, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales urged lawmakers to give up their pork barrel as part of the "fasting on corruption."

Congress pledged

In Congress where the appeal for Filipinos to chip in started, an initial P1.45 million was raised yesterday.

Saying those who had more should give first, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who had sounded the call, pledged P1 million from his own pocket. He announced the first tranche of his donation of P500,000 in a press conference which turned into a mini-pledging session.

The four other congressmen present—Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (Lakas, 2nd dist., Surigao del Norte), Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, 1st dist., Camarines Sur), and Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, 3rd dist., Bukidnon)—announced their contributions of P100,000 each.

De Venecia said Rep. Junie Cua (LP, Quirino), earlier promised P100,000, and Rep. Eduardo Veloso (NPC, 3rd dist., Leyte), another P50,000.

Zubiri said he was circulating a resolution later in the afternoon urging the 236 members of the House to donate a month's salary, equivalent to P35,000 each, to raise at least P8 million. He said the amount would be immediately deducted from the payroll as soon as they signed the resolution.

De Venecia asked wealthy families to give P1 million each. The goal: P5 billion.

He specifically mentioned Lucio Tan, Henry Sy, George Ty, Emilio Yap, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., the Gotianums, the Ayalas, the Lopezes, the Cojuangcos, the Gokongweis and, not to forget, the Arroyos.

He said he recently issued a similar appeal to the leaders and members of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Filipino-Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Filipino-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce, and "all those who want to see the Philippines rise from poverty."

This fund-raising strategy was similar to what was done in South Korea and Thailand during the 1997 Asian financial crash, De Venecia said. These countries have rapidly turned around, he added.

Yesterday's "pledging session" appeared to be the result of a challenge hurled on Monday by Minority Leader Francis Escudero (NPC, 1st dist., Sorsogon) for De Venecia and other House leaders to give of their own money before asking others.

Escudero was not impressed. "I think it is diverting [from] the basic issue, which is mismanagement of the government and the people's money," he said.

"People are carried away by this novel idea and [are therefore] not focusing on the real problem. What the government should do is show us a complete inventory of expenses, how much we really owe and how much we pay."

River of life brings death, suffering to CL folk

From page A1

overflowing of the Pampanga River, officials said.

And it still could get worse for the people in the flooded plains of Central Luzon.

The weather bureau yesterday predicted more monsoon rains for the rest of the week over Luzon and the Visayas because of a prevailing low pressure area and an approaching typhoon.

Typhoon Songda

A low pressure area spotted 980 km east of the Bicol region was responsible for yesterday's cloud cover and rain showers in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces, said Nathaniel Cruz of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Further east, a typhoon with the international name Songda was seen heading toward Japan. Given its direction as of yesterday, Songda was "not likely" to enter the Philippine area of responsibility but merely hover past its northern fringes in the Pacific, Cruz said.

Nevertheless, Songda is expected to get closest to the country by Friday and enhance the southwest monsoon, like the two recent typhoons Marce and Chaba did, Cruz said.

Even in olden times, villagers living close to the Rio Grande had tried to cope with its fury.

The Kapampangans of old built their houses on stilts to let wind and water pass through the *sulip*, as they called the high space between the ground and the floors of their houses.

Dwelling on the banks, they lived on houses that faced the river or *pampang*, from where the province's name was derived.

They refused to compromise this closeness to the river, forcing the Augustinian clergy to build along the banks the first churches in the province in the 16th century.

It was also like this on the Bulacan side of the Pampanga River, mainly in Calumpit and Hagonoy towns. There, as elsewhere, houses were built several meters off the ground, indicating consideration of the flood seasons.

It was different then

Floods came with regularity but with less disastrous impact, as the late historian Mariano Henson documented.

Then, floodwaters took only a few hours to drain.

Old folks reckoned that floods never really disrupted lives.

It was during the American colonial period that dikes sprouted all over the province.

Official documents showed that the flood control works in the Pampanga River basin—the drainer of 30 river systems in Central Luzon—began in 1939.

By the end of 1990, there were 44 earth dikes spanning 381 kilometers. At least 86 percent of these dikes were within Pampanga and the other provinces carved out of the Kapampangan region: Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Bataan and Bulacan.

Drainage facilities, like cut-off channels, waterways, floodgates and canals, spanned 371 km.

The devastating 1972 floods worsened the situation.

In 1975, the government asked the United Nations Development Programme to undertake a comprehensive study of the Pampanga River and the Candaba Swamp, a natural water catchment spanning 33,000 hectares.

The result of the study was the Pampanga Delta Development Project, which had two components—irrigation and the widening and dredging of the mouth of the river that heads out to Manila Bay.

Costly projects

The P3.1-billion dam, named after the late President Diosdado Macapagal, rose in Arayat and diverted the water from the Rio Chico (in northern Luzon) and Rio Grande, distributing this to 8,000 farmlands in Pampanga.

Other projects followed, including the widening and the dredging of a 22.7-km span of the delta.

Yet, the floodings that these projects sought to ease became more severe. Even some 10,000 families along the delta paid a high price when they lost their lands in exchange for the safety of Pampanga.

The Department of Public Works and Highways justified more spending of public funds, saying the effects of *lahar* from the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption had limited the drainage capacities of rivers.

With all these funds being funneled to flood-control works, why do Pampanga and the rest of Central Luzon still experience serious floods?

Desilting still seems to be the one and urgent solution that the DPWH and local officials can see.

Desilting won't work

But Ruth Pambid of the Central Luzon Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation (Concern) said short-term measures, like desilting works, are not effective in containing floods.

Rains, she said, only wash back the sediment dumped on the banks.

Two scientists, Dr. Fernando Siringan and Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo, have offered several solutions to the flooding problem.

These were outlined in their ongoing study, "Net Sea Level Changes in the Pampanga Delta: Causes and Consequences."

By nature, Pampanga, Bulacan and Metro Manila cities are prone to flooding.

These are low-lying areas, they slope toward the sea, take in rain water from a very large watershed (Sierra Madre on the east and Zambales mountain range on the west) and are in a coastal environment.

The seawater that southwest monsoon winds push toward the shore also blocks the discharge of floodwaters.

The aquaculture industry has also thrived along the delta, lining these with fishponds that occupy the waterlogged areas or floodplains.

Floods worsen

Mt. Pinatubo and its debris that now silt the channels are only part of the problem, experts say.

"It is true that flooding in coastal Pampanga worsened between the 1980s and 1990s, but it [had] also worsened in the decades before the eruption," Siringan and Rodolfo said in their study.

"Channel capacities have been decreased by encroaching fishponds and houses, by inappropriate garbage disposal, and siltation largely due to deforestation and the consequent erosion of upland slopes," they said.

Flooding, they added, was also worsened by the loss of the floodplain due to urban development, and even flood-control dikes that were seen as part of solutions.

The "rapid rise" in sea level around Manila Bay, the result of global warming, is compounded several times over by the sinking of the delta plains.

For Siringan and Rodolfo, the more viable solutions go beyond dikes and dredging.

Forest covers delay the rainwater that drain out to the flat lands.

"If reforestation is to be effective, it cannot be done on a town-by-town, or even province-by-province basis, because parts of the watershed that drain into the delta plain also lie in the adjacent provinces. Thus, a serious reforestation endeavor must be done on a national basis," they said. ***With a report from Volt Contreras***

Senate to probe negligence in floods

By Christine O. Avendano

THE SENATE has decided to conduct a probe into what Sen. Richard Gordon said was possible negligence that caused "one of the worst floods in living memory."

The chamber yesterday authorized its public works committee, as well as its environment and natural resources committee, to conduct the investigation.

The devastating floods that swamped Central Luzon the past week killed at least 43 people, affected 1.6 million others and wrought damage to crops and property estimated at P1.3 billion.

Gordon called for the inquiry after delivering a privilege speech.

"This is one of the worst floods in living memory," he said.

He said the last great flood in the country happened in 1972.

"The flood of 1972 was purely an act of God...This time it appears that this was an act of negligence on the part of man," Gordon said.

"This time, we did not have a month of rain. We did not even have two weeks of rain," he said. "Just four days."

Gordon said many questions needed to be answered by government officials, including why authorities opened the floodgates of the San Roque Dam "without even sending a notice to all the affected communities downstream."

Floods jack up Metro food prices

From page A1

agriculture officials said yesterday.

The prices of agricultural produce transported from Baguio and other northern Luzon provinces have jumped by an average of P15 to P20 per kilo because the floods had made it difficult to bring the goods to the lowlands, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) said.

"We are asking the help of the military to transport the vegetables to Manila," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap told reporters.

Some 65 percent of highland vegetables bought in Metro Manila is estimated to come from Benguet.

According to a "Bantay-Presyo" assessment meeting held at the DA, the prices of carrots this week, as monitored by the BAS, jumped to P120/kg as against last week's P70/kg.

Other vegetable products which posted an increase in prices were cabbages and potatoes, both registering a P15/kg increase.

The rise in prices was a result of the tightening of supply from northern Luzon.

This was due mainly to the floods in Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan, which reduced the number of delivery vehicles from a daily average of about 35 trucks to 11, the BAS said.

The DA's office in the Cordillera Administrative Region is now coordinating with the National Disaster Coordinating Council so that Armed Forces trucks could be used to bring the vegetables to Metro Manila.

Yap said vegetable producers from Laguna, Cavite and Batangas had been encouraged to increase their supply to Metro Manila markets.

The BAS, however, reported a drop in calamansi prices to P25/kg from P30/kg last week. It attributed this mainly to the good citrus harvest in Mindoro and Mindanao, which are now in their peak harvest seasons.

The prices of rice, sugar, oil, fish, meat and poultry have remained stable over the last two weeks despite the bad weather.

The prices of bangus and tilapia, which had been expected to rise because of the flooding in Pangasinan, remained at the P70-P80/kg range owing to the stable supply from Laguna and Taal lakes and other fishponds in Southern Tagalog and Bulacan, the BAS said.

The DA has launched measures to help stabilize the prices of basic agricultural products.

These include the distribution of more certified and hybrid rice seeds and the provision of production loans to finance the procurement of seeds, fertilizers and even post-harvest facilities.

Efforts are also continuing to develop new varieties of sugar to augment the country's sugar supply, officials said.

Cop goes from hero to 'heel' in 48 hours

From page A1

Sunday, Aug. 29, he caught two robbers in Quezon City. Yesterday at around 6 a.m., the tail-end of his night shift, his new boss, Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay, caught him napping inside a patrol car.

That was not acceptable under new gung-ho rules meant to smoke out inept officers. Five hours later, Ilustre—sleepless but straight as a rod and looking spic-and-span in his regulation uniform—was presented to the media like a common criminal.

There were five others with Ilustre, all personally collared by Aglipay who had made the rounds of Metro Manila at the crack of dawn.

'Unfortunate'

"It's just so unfortunate," a colleague of Ilustre's at the Central Police District told the INQUIRER. "He's one of the snappy ones, very dedicated to his job."

Ilustre was working the 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. shift. When he went off duty on Monday morning, he spent the next six hours filing criminal charges against his catch the previous night. At 9 that night, he was back on the job.

The arrests were to earn an award for Ilustre next Monday, but infamy came first. He must have been "exhausted" when misfortune tapped on the patrol car window, the colleague said.

Three other CPD officers among the six alleged sleepyheads—PO3 Felipe Santos, PO3 Erlindo Orozco and PO2 Willy Lagrazon—had no previous adverse records, the INQUIRER found out. Actually, they were not even asleep. But sitting inside a parked patrol car is not allowed, either. If the vehicle is not moving, the officers should be standing next to it.

On camera

PO2 Erwin Lauresta and PO2 Enrique Lazaro of the Western Police District—found dozing in their cars in front of the United States Embassy at 4:30 a.m.—completed yesterday's lineup. Aglipay videotaped them as evidence for possible administrative charges before he woke them up. He earlier launched a program that would have teams of policemen armed with cameras going around the metropolis to "shoot" colleagues literally sleeping on the job.

Like Ilustre, all five wore clean and crisp uniforms—in compliance with another Aglipay policy—that did nothing to conceal the shame evident in their bowed heads and flushed faces.

Right agenda, wrong approach, one officer mumbled during the press conference in Camp Crame, referring to the new chief's eagerness to rid the 115,000-strong PNP of bad eggs.

"We're just making a point," Aglipay told reporters. Sensing criticism, his voice rose a bit, but he backed down. He admitted that the officers had not committed a crime, but said they violated an official order governing the conduct of patrol units.

'Fair warning'

"I will be good today but may this be a fair warning," the chief said sternly. "Next time, I'll remove their badges and confiscate their firearms."

Aglipay's crackdown has increased policemen's regular eight-hour duty by four hours more.

"We receive no overtime pay, but that's okay," a CPD rookie told the INQUIRER.

Sought for comment, Ilustre said he was naturally saddened by the turn of events, but that he understood the wisdom of Aglipay's campaign: "He just wants all of us to be more efficient."

At the WPD, spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod, said Manila police officials backed the chief completely on yesterday's incident.

All policemen should be fully alert while on duty, Agunod said, especially those assigned to vital points, like Malacañang Palace, the Pandacan oil depot, LRT stations, government offices and, not to forget, the US Embassy.

Because of the "embarrassing" incident, the spokesperson said, WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong directed all officials to be more vigilant in monitoring the performance of their subordinates.

Quickly recovering from the perceived resistance during yesterday's dramatic presentation, Aglipay turned on the pressure.

Meal allowance hiked

"Tomorrow, the game will start," he declared. For each sleeping cop that he personally caught, he said, regional directors like Metro Manila's Avelino Razon Jr. should turn in two, and district directors like Bulaong, four.

But to soften the edges, Aglipay transferred P10 million from his office's fund to Razon's command. The amount will jack up an officer's daily meal allowance from P30 to P90.

The chief also announced that, "while being harsh on those who don't follow" orders, the PNP will provide "poor policemen," especially in the provinces, with legal and medical assistance.

Obviously, Metro Manila cops have found themselves at the wrong end of the campaign.

Inspecting more than 3,000 police at a seaside park on Sunday, Aglipay drew a pair of scissors and trimmed the hair of at least two officers. Others got a dressing-down for bulging tummies and were ordered to attend thrice-weekly aerobics classes. ***With a report from AP***

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Senate set to cut ₱106.7B from 2005 budget

From page A1

are "within the deficit" target set by the government, according to Boncodin.

Overspending

Recto also revealed that the administration overspent by P50 billion in the 2004 reenacted budget. He said President Macapagal-Arroyo should explain this because it was illegal under the law.

"Who will blink?" asked Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Senator Arroyo was referring to Congress, which can impose new taxes, or Malacañang, which can increase electricity rates and cut down on the huge subsidies for Napocor and other government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) that eat up a big chunk of the national budget.

Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on government corporations, said the GOCCs should be privatized, closed down or be operated in joint venture with the private sector to be profitable.

"(The debts of Napocor) are being passed to Congress because, to a large part, we are in the hole because of Napocor," he said.

But Senator Arroyo said it should be the President, not Congress, who should provide the solution.

"The President should clean up her own backyard, the Napocor being the messiest, before picking on the local governments and their IRA (internal revenue allotment) and on the legislators and their pork barrel. The hearing of the ways and means committee revealed that half of the fiscal problem pertains to the deadweight that is Napocor," he said.

Arroyo said that by a stroke of the pen the President had, through the GAA forwarded to Congress, effectively reduced by 40 percent the legislators' pork barrel.

"In exchange, the President did not give up anything, not one whit of her gargantuan pork barrel, which is a lot, lot bigger than the entire pork barrel of members of both houses of Congress combined."

A COUNTRY of stark contrasts. A scavenger pushes a cart across the Makati-Mandaluyong bridge while beyond gleam the high rises of Makati City where many of the country's elite live. AFP

Propaganda coup

It was a propaganda coup "but at what price?" he asked. "Malacañang can't gloat because the Napocor problem is in the President's court," he said.

The senator explained that it was the President who directed Napocor to peg the purchased power adjustment at 40 centavos per kilowatt hour. Napocor complied but complained that the effect of the reduction would amount to "an average foregone revenue of 85 centavos per kilowatt hour ... or a P60-billion loss," he said.

But that is not all, "Napocor, in a self-serving move, retired its employees and gave them P12 billion in separation pay, and thereafter rehired them," Arroyo said.

"And Malacañang makes a fuss over the P8-billion savings in the reduction of the congressional pork barrel? Compare that with the P12-billion retirement pay of Napocor employees and the P60-billion losses traceable to her own directive. Remember that the new tax measures Malacañang is asking for will yield P80 billion," the senator said.

The President has asked members of Congress to cut their pork barrel by 40 percent to help reduce the budget deficit. She also wants to freeze the internal revenue allotment of local government units in next year's budget.

Reaching out

In Cebu City, the President urged local officials to help resolve the fiscal crisis, regardless of their political leanings.

In her speech during the 35th Mandaue City Charter Day on Monday night, she told the local executives "both from the administration and the opposition to come together to resolve the crisis that our country has finally decided to face."

"I am reaching out to all Filipinos who believe they have a stake in the future of our country," she said.

Among the members of her audience were local officials of Mandaue City and Cebu province as well as chief executives of other towns and cities.

In Iloilo City, the chapter of the Provincial Councilors League has called on the national government to cancel payments on anomalous contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) and to review the country's debt payments instead of cutting the IRA.

In a two-page position paper, the PCL-Iloilo said any suspension or cut in the IRA would worsen the financial situation of LGUs and severely hamper the delivery of services such as health and infrastructure projects.

The IRA is the tax share of LGUs, which get 40 centavos of every peso in taxes collected by the government.

Malacañang earlier announced plans to reduce the IRA of LGUs by P35 billion to avert a financial crisis but it later said it wanted to freeze it to the current level after encountering resistance from local executives.

Social services are among the main casualties in Malacañang's bid to contain the fiscal crisis as its share of the proposed 2005 budget (under discretionary expenses) has been cut to 18 percent from 21 percent this year.

The low priority given to social services was typified by the government's 2005 allocation for the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), which was reduced by P30 million to P2.332 billion.

The DSWD budget is almost equal to the budget of the Office of the President (P2.394 billion) and its budget cut is twice the P60 million increase granted to the Office of the Press Secretary (P850.404 million) in the 2005 budget.

Safety nets

Malacañang acknowledged that poor Filipinos would be the hardest hit by the spending cuts in the 2005 budget.

But Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye assured the public that it would adopt "safety nets" to spare poor Filipinos from the impact of the cuts in pork barrel and social services spending.

"We are deeply aware of the impact on the ordinary people who would be affected by our fiscal plan," he said in a statement. "The government is putting the necessary safety nets in place and ensuring that the most marginal sectors would be spared as much as possible."

Bunye, however, did not specify what safety nets would be put in place and how effective they would be in helping the poor. *With reports from Connie E. Fernandez, Bernadette A. Parco and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cut costs of gov't firms, solon urges House

HOUSE Majority Leader Prospero Nograles (Lakas, 1st dist., Davao City) yesterday called for a cut in the expenditures of government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) to ensure that they did their share of belt tightening.

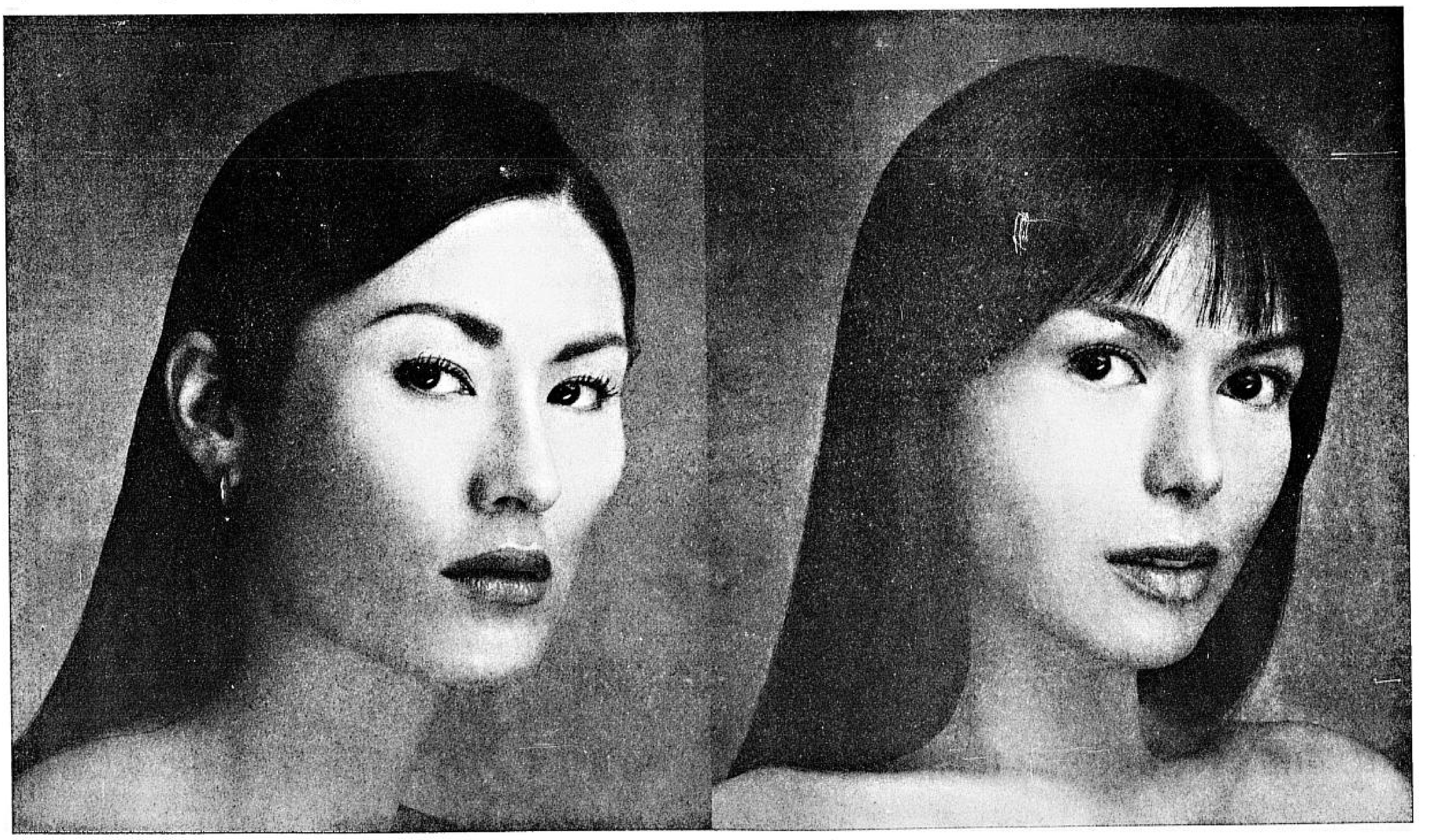
He said that Congress should determine how the budgets of GOCCs and GFIs were spent and identify where cuts could be made without compromising their operations.

Some GOCCs have intelligence funds when they have no need for intelligence, according to Nograles.

Also to be looked into were the purchases of vehicles for the officials of these agencies.

Nograles said he noticed that officials of GOCCs and GFIs, who attended budget hearings in the past, had arrived in vehicles that made the congressmen's cars "look like the vehicles of security escorts."

He said members of the House used their own cars and did not have a car plan like these agencies. *Cynthia D. Balana*



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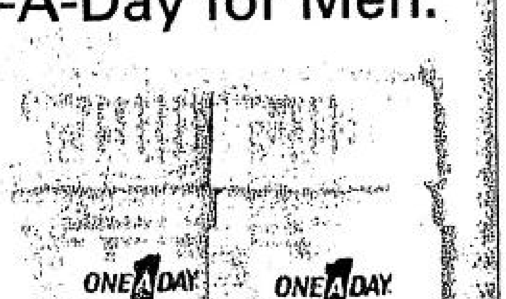

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Bayer HealthCare

Complaint leads cops to firearms

By Tina G. Santos

A 61-YEAR-OLD man's alleged indiscriminate firing led members of the Central Police District to a "collection" of firearms and a grenade in his house in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

Sr. Supt. Procopio Lipana, chief of the CPD-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU), identified the suspect as Bernardo Aquino, of Sitio Pingkian II, Barangay Pasong Tamo.

Lipana said neighbors of Aquino called police Hotline 117 and complained of him firing a gun in their neighborhood.

Members of the CPD Station 3 and CPD-CIU formed a team and applied for a search warrant against Aquino.

Morning raid

Armed with the warrant for alarm and scandal issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, policemen then went to the suspect's house at about 6 a.m.

During a search, police found firearms and an explosive inside the house of Aquino.

Seized from his house were two .38-caliber revolvers, a homemade shotgun, seven 12-guage shotgun rounds, nine .38-caliber rounds and a fragmentation grenade.

Police records showed that Aquino was also previously arrested for illegal possession of a machine gun.

Aquino, who is now detained at the CPD headquarters in Sikatuna Village, would be slapped with charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives, aside from alarm and scandal complaints.

Teacher arrested for drugs

By Nelson Flores

A HIGH school teacher and six other women were arrested over the weekend for allegedly selling illegal drugs in Quezon City and Cavite.

Agents from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) also seized 150 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride worth P300,000 from the suspects.

Senior Supt. Bernardo Bondoc, PDEA public information officer, identified the suspects as teacher Rosemin Manalang, 53; Rosalia Mangaya, 51; Marina Lao, 47; Lydia Dungo, 29; Leslie Quijano, 30; Luningning Crisostomo, 28; and Minda Argona, 37.

Separate arrests

He said Manalang, Mangaya, Lao and Dungo were arrested near SM City Annex on North Edsa, while the rest were apprehended in the parking lot of SM Bacoor.

Bondoc said the suspects were arrested after several months of surveillance.

He added that Manalang, who vehemently denied the allegation against her, was a teacher at San Francisco High School.

The suspects, now detained at the PDEA headquarters in Quezon City, have been charged with drug pushing, a non-bailable offense punishable by death under Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

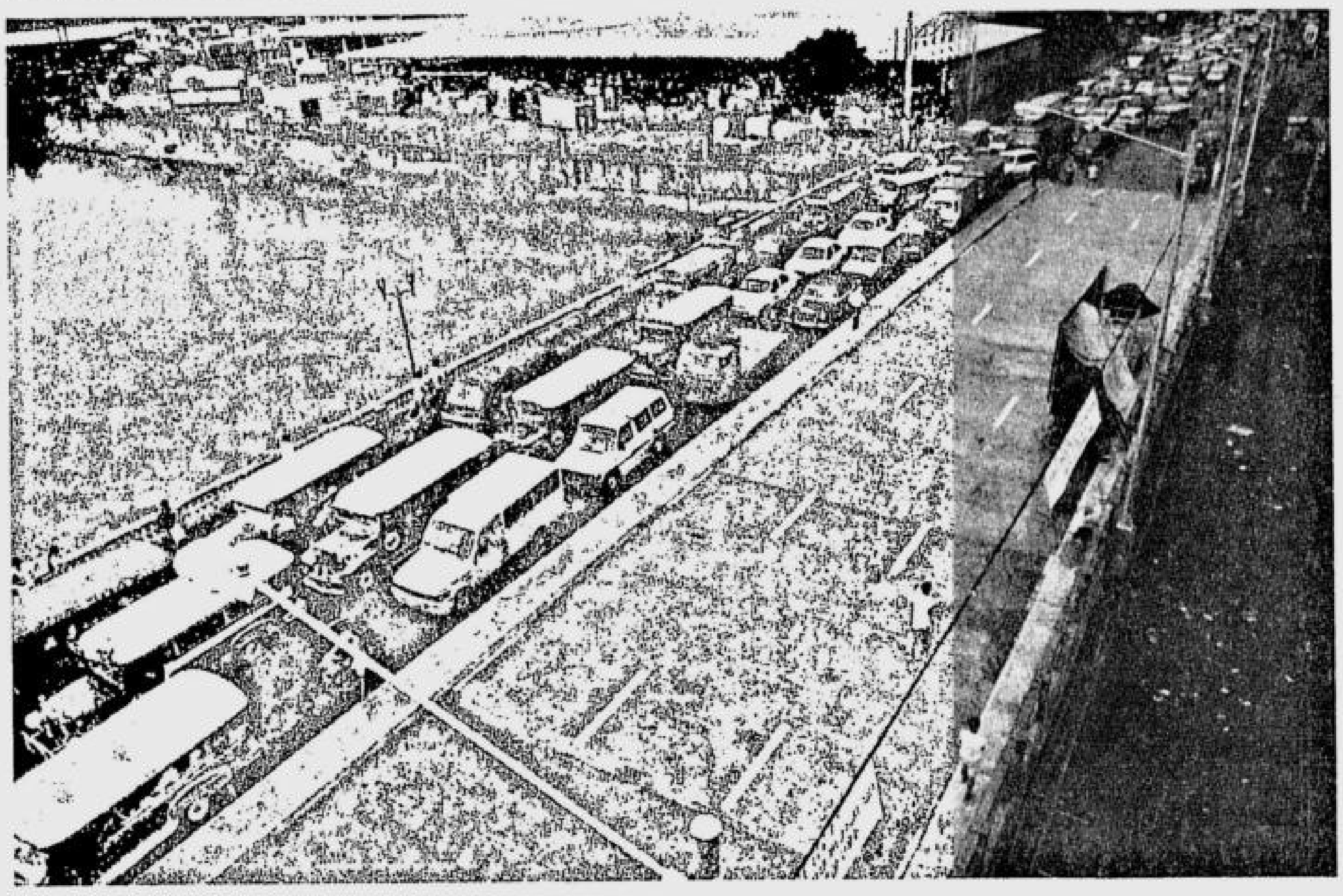
No civilians

Meanwhile, PDEA Undersecretary and Director General Anselmo Avenido Jr. said his agency was not employing civilians in its antidrugs operations.

Avenido made the clarification following reports that two civilian agents of the agency were arrested following separate extortion incidents in Central Luzon.

He said the PDEA, being the principal government organization involved in the antidrugs war, could tap the services of the police, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the customs and the immigration bureaus for its operations, therefore, there was no need for it to employ civilians.

Negligent jail escorts dismissed



WAITING IN LINE
RUDY ESPERAS
Drivers squeeze through the operational lanes of Sevilla Bridge on the Mandaluyong-Manila boundary as workers prepare for the opening of new lanes yesterday afternoon.

By Luige A. del Puerto

FOR BUNGLING a routine job such as escorting suspects to the courts, four jail officers have been relieved of their duties.

JO1 Edwin Cereza, JO1 Ronald Balantis, JO2 Jura Pujop and JO3 Irwin Calcita, who had accompanied suspected drug dealer Maurillo Marcelo to the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court yesterday to attend a hearing, were also charged with infidelity in the custody of prisoners.

The charge carries a penalty of two to six years imprisonment.

The four have been told to report to the warden's office, according to jail chief Supt. Abraham Abella.

"They are now detained at the regional headquarters in Quezon City for questioning," he said.

"As far as I am concerned, they are already considered relieved from their jobs. I'm just waiting for the formal order from the regional headquarters," Abella added.

On Monday morning, Marcelo managed to remove his handcuffs, then quickly disappeared inside the City Hall complex, where the jail and the police headquarters are located.

Marcelo, 46, sometimes uses the name Mauricio Marcelo and has five pending cases involving illegal drugs, records showed.

A companion, Susan, had tagged along with the suspect when he was brought to the court by his jail escorts. The two were even handcuffed together, according to reports.

Marcelo had asked the escorts to loosen the grip on his handcuffs, saying these were too tight, according to Susan.

The couple have a daughter (not a son as earlier reported) who is also in jail for allegedly violating the country's narcotics laws.

Distraction

Abella said an awarding ceremony for SPO1 Charlito Corpuz, the policeman who shot and killed three bus robbers early last month, had distracted the jailers.

"*Nakatunganga sila doon sa* awarding ceremony (Their attention was focused on the awarding ceremony)," the jail warden said.

Marcelo took advantage of the situation and fled toward the old city jail building, near the treasury office.

It was the first time in the city's history that a suspect escaped while being escorted to the courts, a dismayed Abella said.

Camanava Summit off to uneasy start

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SOME northern Metro Manila mayors are having doubts about the capability of the proposed P5-billion Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) Flood Control Project that its designers say could help alleviate the perennial flooding problem in the area.

In northern Metro Manila, flood flows into the streets and houses, rain or shine, the moment the tide rises. Flooding is aggravated when heavy rains coincide with the rising tide.

After the mayors and other local officials grilled engineers from the Department of Public Works and Highways working on the project at the start of the Camanava Summit in Valenzuela City yesterday, Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval said he would ask for a congressional inquiry to determine whether or not the project design could adequately address the problem.

The summit was the first in a series of discussions between local officials and officials from Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other agencies.

It was aimed at finding integrated solutions to common problems confronting the four cities and one municipality in northern Metro Manila.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco also said the flood control project would not completely solve the perennial problem of flooding in Camanava.

"This is not the total solution," Tiangco said, after commenting that some details of the project were either scrapped or deferred because of insufficient funds.

Malabon City Mayor Canuto Oreta brought up the issue of delays in the project, which is expected to be completed in 2007.

The construction began in June 2003, but the latest report from the DPWH showed that only about 7 percent of the project had been completed after a year.

This is more than 2 percent short of the original target for the first year of construction.

The mayors were also surprised to find out that the worldwide phenomenon of ground subsidence also affected the Camanava area.

Project consultant Luis Sosa told the mayors that the lowering of the ground had been considered in the design of the polder dikes, but he could not present new data about the rates of subsidence in areas within Camanava.

Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri then asked why the project engineers were standing by the project design if they did not know the rate of subsidence in the area.

Earlier, two marine geologists from the University of the Philippines National Institute of Geological Sciences expressed alarm about the project.

They said that the project design was based on old data of subsidence and could have ignored recent subsidence rates, which could already be higher.

Sandoval said he feared that with the continuous ground subsidence, the whole project could be obsolete in just a decade.

But Project Manager Carla Bartolo said subsidence would be addressed through the maintenance of dikes, which could be added with another layer after some time.

The MMDA also presented a P300-million plan to rehabilitate the 24 pumping stations in Camanava. Six of these stations are not operating at present.

fficials also discussed traffic management strategies, housing, city planning, other infrastructure projects and the problem of garbage disposal.

Stolen van found in Marikina house

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE in Marikina City recovered a stolen van which had already been stripped of its accessories in Barangay Parang Monday night.

PO3 James Abesamis said the successful operation brought the police closer to pinpointing a warehouse where car parts like engines, carpets and seats are wiped clean of identifying marks, and then resold.

Abesamis said Rolando Garcia, the caretaker who was caught dismantling the Lite Ace van, had provided information about the warehouse, said to be located in Eastern Metro Manila.

Garcia admitted to police that he had "chopped up" the van. He said it was the first time he did such a thing—a claim police refused to believe.

Garcia has also named his accomplices, police said.

He identified them as Ricardo Butaslac, Christopher dela Cruz and a certain "Michael." Butaslac is on top of the city police's list of most wanted car thieves.

He has been in and out of jail, posting bail every time he got arrested, the police said.

Michael was the one who brought the van to the house inside Tinio Compound on Paraiso Street where it was found, Abesamis said, quoting the suspect.

The Lite Ace van belonged to Gloria Manzano, also of Barangay Parang. It was reported missing on Saturday.

Bacani book launch

IS AUTONOMY the solution to the rebellion in Mindanao? Is the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao an effective vehicle to achieve peace and development in the region?

These issues are discussed in a book, "Beyond Paper Autonomy: The Challenge in Southern Philippines," that will be launched on Sept. 1 at 5 p.m. at the Manila Hotel. The author is Dean Benedicto R. Bacani of the College of Law of Notre Dame University in Cotabato City.

Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide will be the guest speaker at the book launching.

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Rowe Jay keeps on bleeding

ROWE Jay

FOR 12-YEAR-OLD Rowe Jay Bonabon a small cut or wound is a serious thing.

Rowe Jay is afflicted with hemophilia, a rare hereditary disorder in which blood fails to clot normally, thus it takes long for his wounds to stop bleeding.

His parents, Romeo and Teresita, only found out that he was sick with hemophilia when he was at the age of two.

Teresita said Rowe Jay fell on his face, which caused his lips to bleed profusely.

Now, Rowe Jay cannot walk because both his knees are swollen as an effect of his ailment and the lack of medication.

For him to experience at least a semblance of normal life, he needs to take a blood-clotting agent called Factor VII, his mother said.

One vial of Factor VII costs P25,000 and Rowe Jay needs six vials every 12 hours.

Approximately, they need P2 million to raise for his lifetime medication.

Teresita said they were having a hard time providing for their son's medical needs.

Her husband receives a meager income from being a contractual welder.

"I am pleading to the readers to help my son," the mother said in a letter to the INQUIRER.

Interested donors may deposit their contributions to the account of Teresita Bonabon at RCBC Lagro Branch. Her account number is 1009-06255-3.

Donors may call at 0916-3474919 and 0927-3741253. *Jocelyn Uy*

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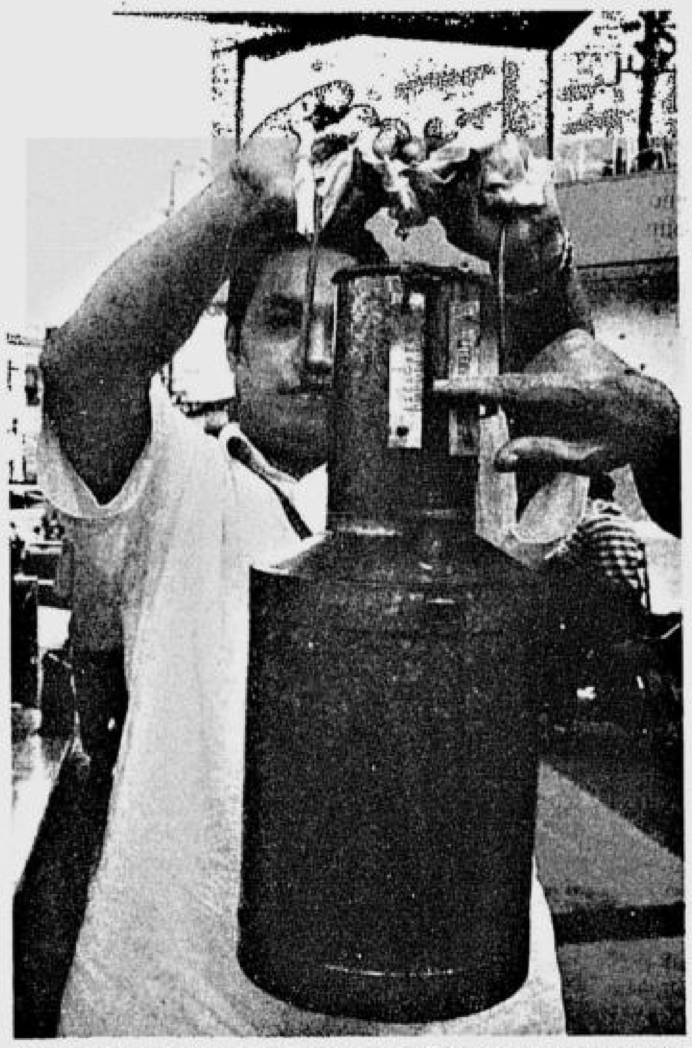
Gas cheats will be punished —Malacañang

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Tina Santos



AN INSPECTOR from the Quezon City treasurer's office lifts a calibration bucket during a visit to the Petron gas station along Roosevelt Avenue yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

GASOLINE stations found to be shortchanging their customers, especially in the face of soaring oil prices, will not be tolerated, Malacañang said yesterday as it ordered the Department of Energy and local government officials to throw the book at dishonest petroleum retailers.

"Cheating in the midst of a crisis is to be doubly condemned and will be punished accordingly," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement. "Our transport sector and commuters have suffered enough from oil prices."

An inspection conducted by the Quezon City Treasurer's Office yesterday on gasoline stations in the city revealed that 44 of 119 gasoline stations were fleecing their customers through tampered pumps. The tests showed that the pumps were uncalibrated or short by several milliliters of the gas sold per transaction.

The local government code empowers city governments to inspect and correct uncalibrated gasoline pumps.

Bunye said Malacañang wanted the inspection of gasoline stations broadened to cover not only Metro Manila but all gasoline stations nationwide.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte yesterday said that he would push for stiffer fines for those caught cheating their customers. He said he would propose to the City Council an increase in the fines from P400 to P1,000 for the first offense; from P800 to P2,000 for the second offense; and the revocation of the license or closure of the establishment for the third offense.

The mayor said he would also seek an increase in the calibration fee from P20 to P100.

The Department of Energy, that sent three of its men to join the survey, imposes a P10,000 fine on erring gas stations, according to city treasurer Victor Endriga, who led the inspection team.

Belmonte said the inspections would continue until all the gas stations in the city are properly calibrated.

Meanwhile, a Flying V station in Araneta Avenue corner Brixton Hills included in the list of delinquent gasoline stations yesterday denied that it was duping its consumers.

In a statement faxed to the INQUIRER, Paul Tanjutco, Flying V chief operating officer, claimed that of the 12 dispensers in the station, nine units were found to be distributing well within the "tolerable" 10 milliliter less (for every 10 liter bucket of oil products) allowance.

Three are even dispensing over the measurements, Tanjutco said.

But Endriga explained that fines would still be imposed even if the gas pumps were dispensing within the tolerable allowance. The meter readings should be leveled at zero, he said.

Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar, on the other hand, said they were looking into allegations made that five of its service stations in Quezon City found in Barangays Malaya, Laging Handa, Kristong Hari, Diliman and Talipapa, were not dispensing the right amount of fuel.

"If we find that any of our dealers are remiss, then we will immediately reprimand them and may even revoke their dealerships," she said.

"While our own standards are more stringent than the DOE, it appears that the Quezon City government is using an even more stringent standard. We are more than willing to cooperate with them to clarify these standards since we believe that there should be a uniform benchmark to avoid any misunderstanding," Ruivivar added. *With Abigail Ho*

EZ2
2 15
(In exact order)

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
2 9 20 24 31 37

SUERTRES
7 8 4

SIX DIGIT
6 5 8 2 3 3
(In exact order)

Swedish fugitive arrested

By Leila B. Salaverria

A SWEDE who fled to the country three years ago to evade arrest for murder in Sweden has been arrested.

Charlie Mats Tomas Olsson, 32, was arrested in Olongapo City on Monday by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation's Interpol Division.

Olsson was arrested upon the request of Benny Carlson, Nordic Police Liason Office of the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok, NBI-Interpol chief Ricardo Diaz told media yesterday.

Carlson told the NBI that Olsson was wanted for an "execution-style" killing on Aug. 26, 2001.

Olsson also refused to make a statement when he was presented to media yesterday.

The District Judge of Huddinge in Sweden issued a warrant for Olsson's arrest on Feb. 13, 2002. His Swedish passport was revoked later.

Diaz said the suspect eluded arrest in Angeles City, where authorities earlier went to look for him.

When the suspect was arrested in Olongapo City, he had been living with a girlfriend and their year-old daughter in an apartment in Barangay Baretto.

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Bata repeats over Alex, bags ₱1.1

THERE are still tricks up Efren "Bata" Reyes' sleeves.

Tested to the hilt by reigning World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan, Reyes displayed precise shot-making and ball control to prevail by the slimmest of margins, 13-12, and capture the On Cue 3: Continental Conquest Crown yesterday at the Galleria Trade Hall of Robinson's Galleria in Madaluyong City.

Living up to his "Magician" moniker, Reyes did not give Pagulayan a turn to come to the table in the 25th and final rack as he duplicated his 9-7 conquest of the Filipino-Canadian in the quarterfinals.

Reyes, a billiards Hall of Famer, pocketed each ball with utmost caution and caught his breath only after he sank the No. 8 ball. Seeing the sure shot on the game-clinching No. 9 ball, the crowd gave their hero a loud applause.

Reyes had earlier turned back 15-year-old Taiwanese sensation Wu Chia-ching, 11-6, in the semifinals.

"Dun na ako nahimasmasan nang pumasok 'yung otso, at nakakasiguro na ako sa panalo (I came to my senses when the eight ball went in and I'm assured of victory," said Reyes.

MAKING SURE
Efren "Bata" Reyes gives it a final peek before hitting a combination shot in the decisive 21st rack of his duel with Alex Pagulayan yesterday. Reyes pocketed the shot and went on to defeat the reigning World Pool champion. ROMY HOMILLADA

For his feat, the 50-year-old Reyes earned $20,000 (P1.1 million), while Pagulayan, a Canadian citizen who recently reacquired Filipino citizenship, received $10,000.

It was a seesaw fight throughout.

Pagulayan took control after scoring on Reyes' break in the 15th rack, drilling in a gem of a 4-9 combination shot to enjoy a 9-7 edge.

Reyes wrested the lead at 11-10 and kept it at 12-11. But Pagulayan, who romped to the finals via an 11-2 triumph over Django Bustamante, held his break and forged the decision, 12-12.

Reyes, however, won't be denied.

For making it to the semifinals of the event organized by ABS-CBN and supported by Puyat Sports, both Bustamante and Wu pocketed $5,000 each.

With a report from Marlon Bernardino

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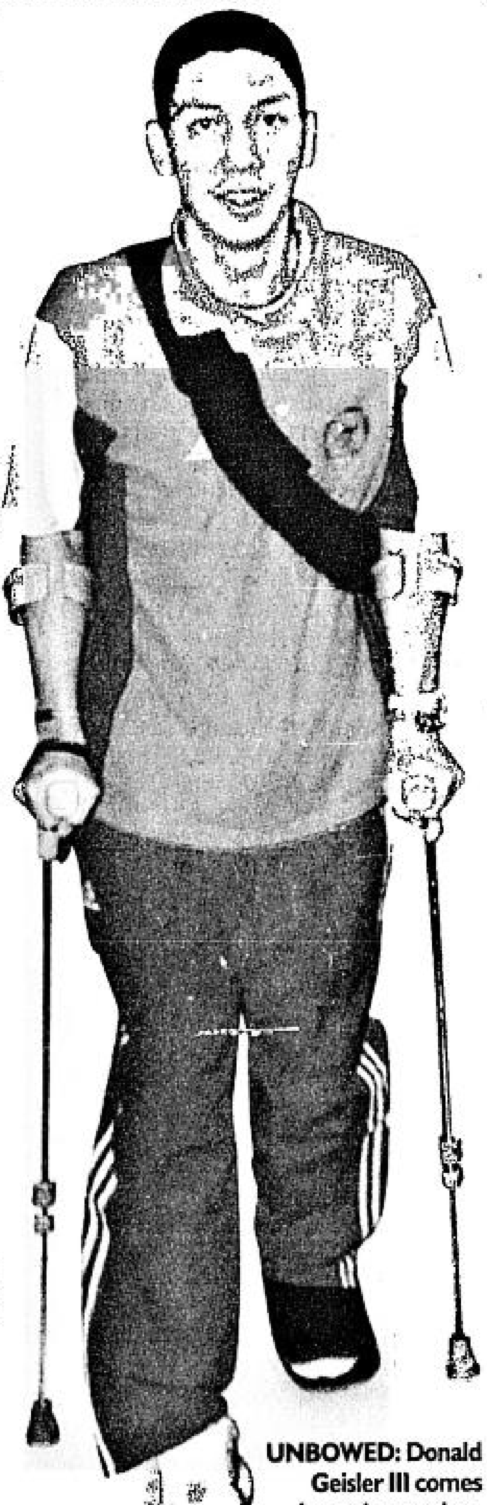


UNBOWED: Donald Geisler III comes home in crutches.
PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

Big show by SEAG rivals alarms RP sports officials

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—While the Philippine delegation returned yesterday with nothing to show after a fortnight of action in the 28th Olympic Games, its Southeast Asian neighbors, particularly Thailand, brought home a bumper crop of medals.

After the final day of action in the Games, the Philippines was again shut out of the medal board after coming so tantalizingly close in taekwondo on Saturday, the penultimate day of the Games.

Thailand, on the other hand, is enjoying its "best Olympics ever," according to a Thai broadcaster.

The Thais came home with seven medals, including three golds, one silver and three bronzes—good for 25th place overall in the medal standings and fourth—behind China, Japan and Korea—among Asian nations that vied in Athens.

Indonesia, too, is in the medal picture with four medals—one gold, one silver and two bronzes.

No other Southeast Asian nation won a medal, but the performances of Thailand and Indonesia in Athens have alarmed Philippine sports officials in view of the proximity of the SEA Games, which Manila is hosting next year.

HOME IS THE HEROINE: Taekwondo jin Mary Antoinette Rivero arrives at the NAIA with coach Jesus "Jobet" Morales.

"That means it's anything-Games in the SEA Games," said Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"We just hope that the Athens experience will challenge our athletes to do better in the Southeast Asian Games."

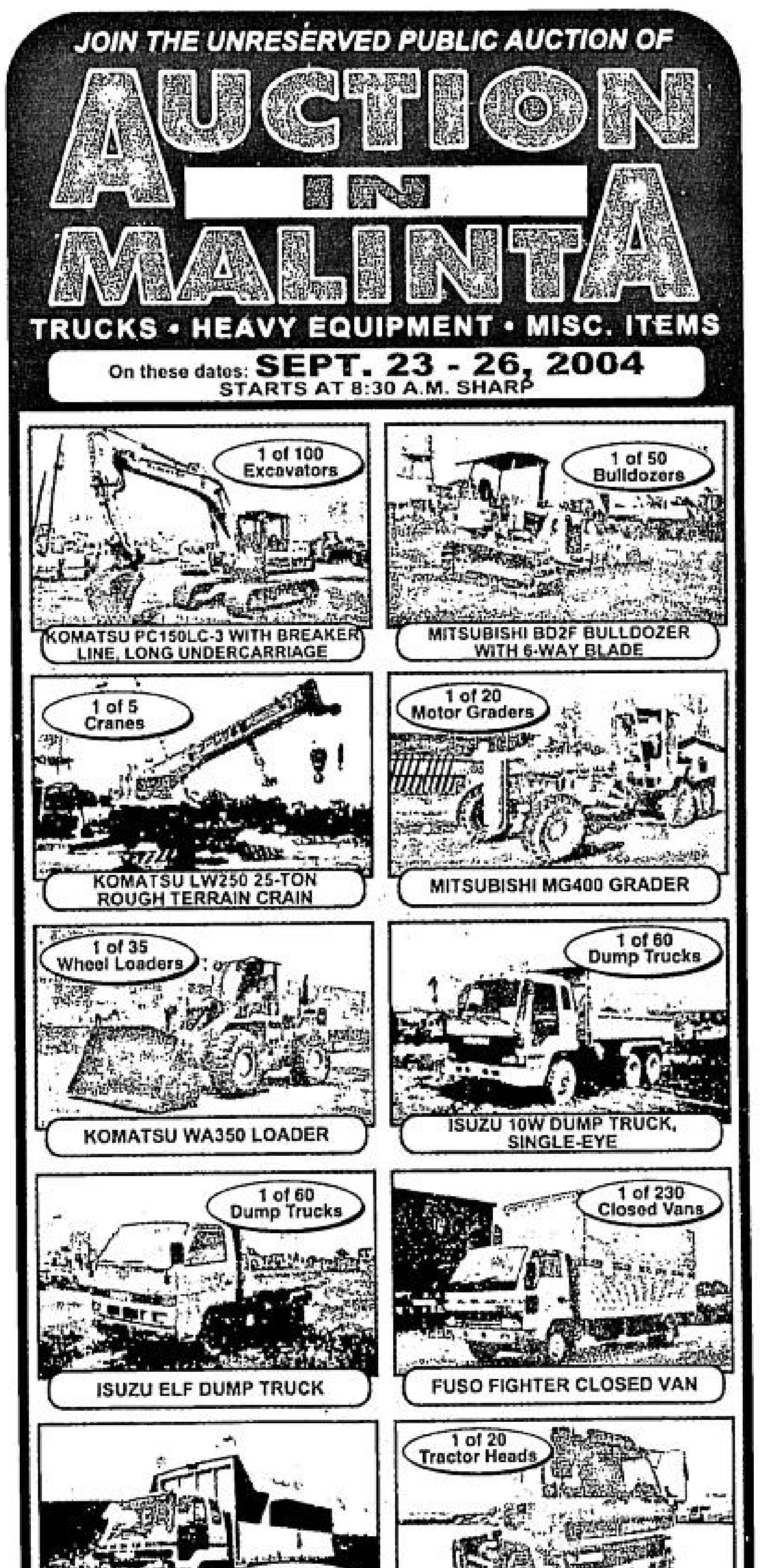
Thailand and Indonesia sent the most number of athletes among the Southeast Asians. Thailand had 43 while Indonesia had 39. Malaysia was third with 26 athletes followed by the Philippines and Singapore with 16 each.

Vietnam, which emerged as Southeast Asian sports power when it won the medal race in last year's Games, had 11 athletes followed by Laos (5), Cambodia (4) and Myanmar (2).

While Malaysia did not win a medal either, the fact that it had more athletes in Athens indicates it is still a force to reckon with in the SEA Games. It meant it had more athletes who met or surpassed Olympic-qualifying standards.

Thailand took two gold and two bronze medals in women's weightlifting. (The Philippines did not send a participant in weightlifting, but the president of the Philippine Weightlifting Association, Rep. Monico

BIG SHOW/ A26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Cardinals, Lions fight for life today

IT'S down to one final match for the San Beda Lions and the Mapua Cardinals.

And, apparently, it's not going to be easy when the two teams gun for a last shot at the Final Four against front-runners Perpetual Help Altas and Philippine Christian U Dolphins in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

San Beda battles PCU at 2 p.m., while Mapua faces Perpetual Help at 4 p.m. today at the Rizal Coliseum.

While the Altas and the Dolphins, both with 9-4 win-loss slates, aim for a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals, the Lions and the Cardinals can only hope to remain in contention.

San Beda, Mapua and idle San Sebastian Stags are tied with idle San Sebastian in fourth place with 7-6 records.

A loss would put any of the three teams out of the running, unless they all end up losing their games. There will be a playoff in case of a tie.

PCU remains the only unbeaten team in the second round, matching Perpetual's six-game winning streak in the first round. San Beda is coming off an overtime win against San Sebastian, 94-86, last Monday.

Jasmine W. Payo

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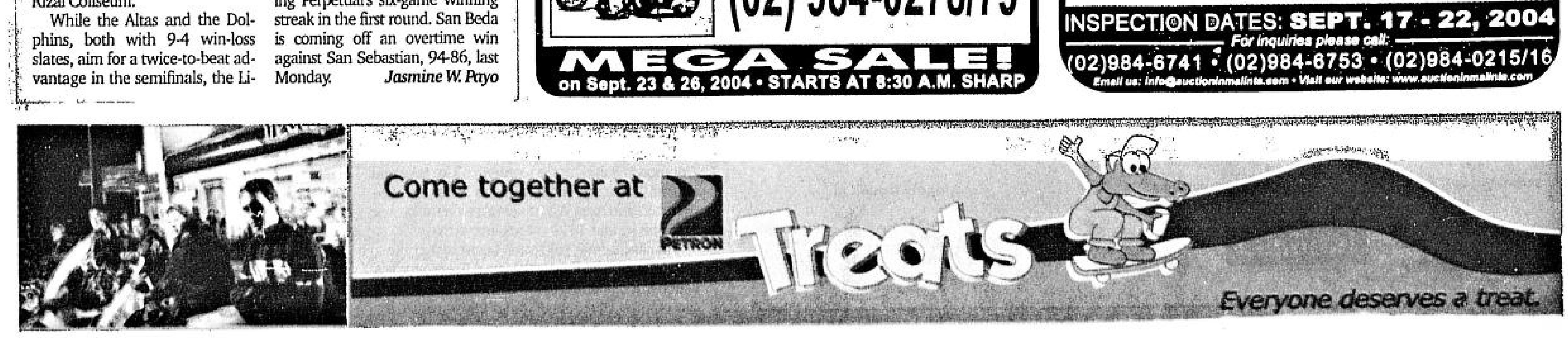
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Saints rout Holy Angel squad for win No. 11

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RAYMOND Deveraturda poured in 28 points as St. Clare College of Caloocan battered Holy Angel University of Pampanga, 93-86, yesterday in the 4th National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball competition at the UM Gym.

Deveraturda, a 6-foot-3 swingman, went on a rampage that allowed the Saints to score their 11th victory and storm the upper rung of the standings going into the next round with an 11-3 slate. The only team ahead of the host school is undefeated University of Manila, which has a spotless 11-0 record.

It was not an easy picking, however, for the team coached by former PBA player Joel Dualan as the winless Flyers fought tooth and nail.

Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay leaned on a fourth-quarter binge by Vincent Go-bon, Roel Asay, Michael Nuqui and Reynaldo David to defeat AMA Computer University, 78-74, in the second game.

GAMES TOMORROW
(UM Gym)
9 a.m.—UM vs HAU (Srs.)
12 nn—New Era vs AMA (seniors)
1:30 p.m.—AMA vs St. Clare (women)
3 p.m.—STI vs CEU (seniors)

DLSU'S Mark Cardona and Jerwin Gaco dispute ball possession with AdU's Rommel Tagupa in their first-round game won by the Falcons.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Archers seek No.4 against Falcons

LA SALLE'S resurgent Archers try to extend their winning streak to four when they clash with the Adamson Falcons today in the UAAP senior basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

"We're getting into our groove. The guys are now doing their respective roles," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

The Archers have bounced back from an alarming 4-4 record with three straight victories—their longest win streak of the season.

In the other senior match, the University of the East Warriors tackle the sliding University of Sto. Tomas Tigers at 1:30 p.m.

While La Salle has recovered from a mediocre start, Adamson has yet to get its act together. The Falcons held a promising 3-1 slate before losing six of their last seven games. Another loss today would dim their Final Four chances.

After two straight losses, UE again found its confidence after routing National University, 67-45, last Saturday.

UST, meanwhile, hopes to snap its four-game skid and clinch its first win in the second round.

Today's matches were originally scheduled on Aug. 26 but were canceled due to inclement weather.

Jasmine W. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	9	2
FEU	8	3
La Salle	7	4
UE	6	5
UP	5	6
Adamson	4	7
UST	4	7
NU	1	10

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
11:30 a.m.—UE vs UST (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UE vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Jrs)

Cebuano cagers nip Laguna in 2 OTs

CALAPE, Bohol—Ronald Bucao sank the winning basket as Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) pulled off an 82-80 double overtime decision over Laguna Spring Monday in a thrilling match featuring the division leaders in the NBC (National Basket Conference) national finals at the Calape Cultural Center here.

The 5-foot-10 Bucao eluded Laguna's Marlon Kalaw with 2.9 seconds left in the second overtime period to bank in the shot off Danny Capobres and give the Tribes their sixth straight win.

"Alam ko talagang papasok 'yun nung malusutan ko si Kalaw," said an elated Bucao after steering the team of businessman Lito Gilliamac Jr., Alberto Tan and Dr. Kelly Viado to victory.

It was a heartbreaking loss for Spring of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro as it led by seven points late in the fourth quarter. Laguna, however, still kept the top spot in the North with a 5-4 record.

The Skygo-backed Tribes also remained firmly on top of the South Division with a runaway 8-1 slate.

The scores:

CEBU 82—Lanete 16, Sanders 13, Grijaldo 11, Bucao 10, Larong 8, Mercado 6, Gamboa 4, Tangkay 3, De la Rosa 3, Piodo 2, Galinato 2, Concha 2, Licanda 2.

LAGUNA 80—Reyes 17, Garcia 17, Nicdao 15, Capobres 9, Kalaw 8, Corbin 5, Epondulan 5, Mendoza 2, Roda 2, Lingal 0, Buendia 0.

Quarters: 17-14, 39-35, 51-50, 68-68 (reg.) 73-73 (1OT), 82-80 (2OT).

RP 'AWAKENING' IN ATHENS

Heartwarming, heartbreaking

(Conclusion).

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

LIMPING back to the center of the mat with the score tied at 7-7, Donald Geisler III, his ankle dislocated after that thudding clash in midair with Tunisian rival Hichem Hamdouni, insisted on fighting. But they refused to let him.

He was carried out of the pavilion in a stretcher to the applause of the crowd. No other loser got more appreciative cheers from the hometown crowd, which had previously jeered Mary Antoinette Rivero in her match against the Greek girl.

Tshomlee Go, who carried the Philippine flag in Sunday's closing ceremonies, was luckless. After losing a close fight in the first round against Spain's Juan Ramos, he never got into the repechage round because Ramos lost right in the next round. Only losers to the eventual finalists get that chance in the sport.

The experience in taekwondo, which became part of the official Olympic program only in 2000 in Sydney, showed there's a medal potential for Filipinos in the Olympics outside of boxing.

"We're proud that in our own little way we can contribute to win honors for the country," said Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado. "While we accept the responsibility that we could win medals, as Tony had almost done, we wish the other sports would share the responsibility."

Elsewhere in the Games, there were no heroes. The Filipinos were outclassed. Swimming did manage three Philippine records—one by Miguel Molina and two by Fil-Am Jaclyn Pangilinan.

Pangilinan clocked 1:12:47 and 2:33.38 in the women's 100- and 200-meter breaststroke, respectively, to break her own marks, and Molina timed 2:19.19 in the men's 200 breast to drown the 12-year-old record of Lee Concepcion of 2:20.37.

Otherwise, the Filipinos were an embarrassment at the Olympic Aquatic Center, a fact shared by the team's veteran, Miguel Mendoza, who finished last in his favorite event, the 1500-m freestyle.

"Words can't describe how embarrassed I was with the performance," said the 22-year-old Mendoza.

The other Filipino swimmers didn't do well, either, but Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain saw a bright future for the young squad which will see action in next year's Southeast Asian Games.

Of the swimmers, James Walsh is the youngest at 17. Pangilinan is 18, Molina 20, and Raphael Chua and Mendoza 22.

This team, which is "young and blooming," will form the nucleus of a powerhouse squad for the SEA Games. And the Olympic Games served as their "coming-out party," said Buhain, himself a former Olympic swimmer.

Boxing, once a medal source for the Philippines in the Olympics, has come up empty for two Olympics now.

Middleweight Christopher Camat and flyweight Violito Payla, lost their first-round fights, while two others—light welterweight Romeo Brin and light flyweight Harry Tañamor—hurdled their first-round opponents but lost their next bouts.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, admitted something was wrong with the boxing program.

"We will find out what went wrong," he said after taking responsibility for the failure of boxing, which has not won an Olympic medal since 1996, when Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco won a silver in Atlanta.

"Boxing needs a full reassessment of its program," Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit agreed. "We need that to meet the challenge of Thailand in next year's SEA Games."

The Thais won one gold, one silver and one bronze in boxing in Athens.

Dayrit said the Athens experience was "an awakening" for Philippine sports and its leaders.

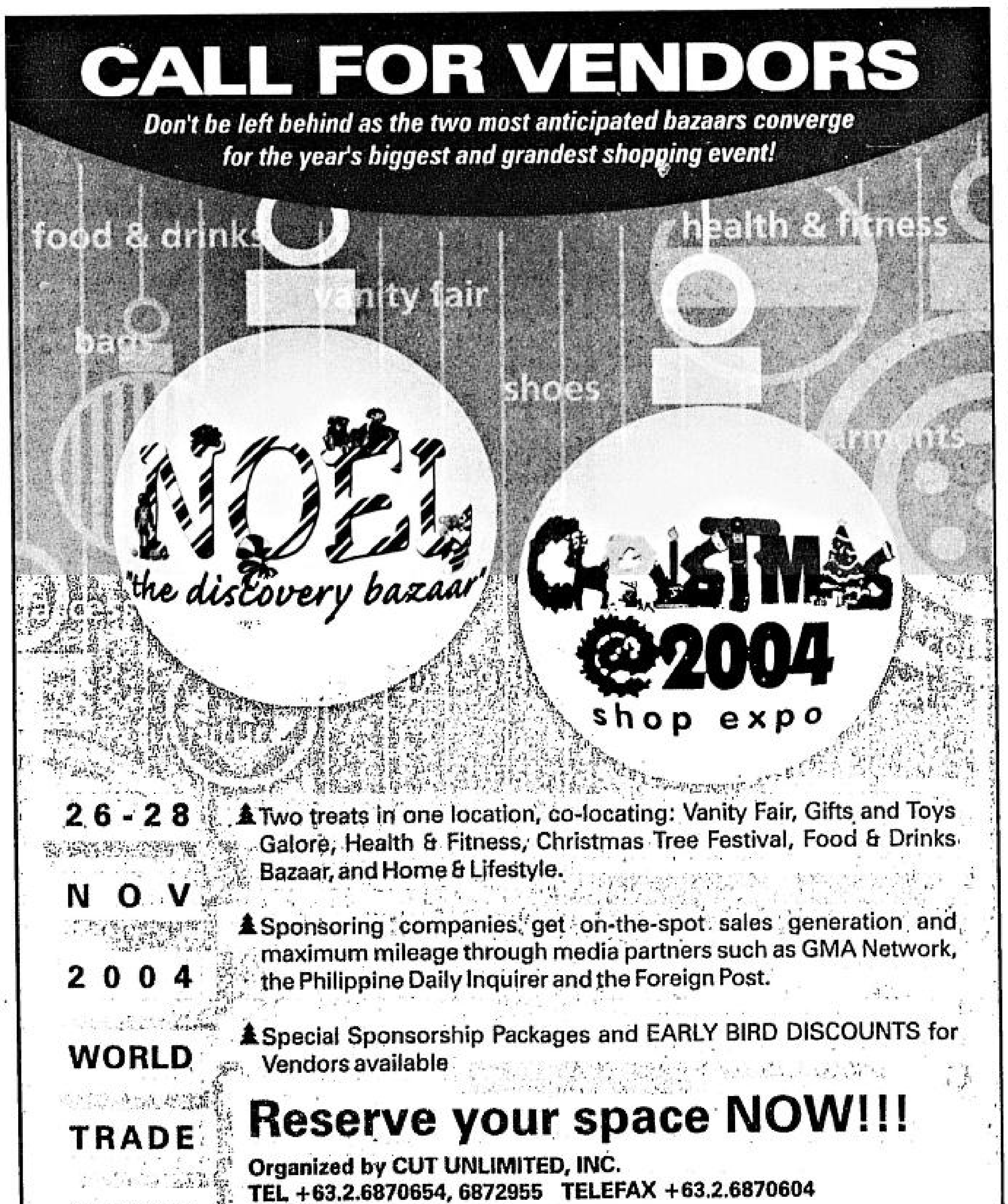
"It has shown us that, apart from boxing, there are other sports which can win medals for us in the Olympics, like taekwondo, archery and shooting.

Shooting had one entry for the Philippines—in the trap—but it was more for the experience for deadshot Jethro Dionisio, who switched to shotguns only recently after excelling as a world champion with the pistol in practical shooting.

Athletics sent two to battle, but it was apparent from the start that they were not up to Olympic standards. Lerma Bulauitan Gabito and marathon runner Eduardo Buenavista could not even match their personal records. Gabito leaped 6.31 m in the long jump, far off her RP record of 6.56 m, to finish 33rd out of 39 jumpers.

Buenavista, the Philippines' last man out, capped the debacle with a 67th place finish out of 102 starters, almost 10 minutes off his Philippine best.

And so, as Filipino sports leaders had done so often after each Olympiad, it's back to the drawing board, until the first ever gold medal—or the next debacle—in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.



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Goodbye kiss to Greece

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ATHENS—Farewell now, dear Athens, city of my new affections, whose loveliness and magic I haven't known and may never ever fathom.

It's too early to go but, sorry, it's goodbye for now.

Thank you for the chance you gave my dear Philippines, although it failed again in its search for the elusive Olympic gold medal.

Our contingent finished the celebration empty-handed, still ignorant about the winning secrets hidden in your great ruins.

Yes, RP again got invited to the party, it put on its best, but sadly failed to make it to the grand ball.

Still, thank you for the experience, thank you for the magical moments.

***

Thank you for bringing the US Dream Team down to earth.

Thank you for sending it crashing in fragments and telling the world that basketball greatness cannot be solely anchored on shameless individualism.

So the NBA stars lived in affluence like kings, stayed on board a docked cruise ship during the Games, but ended up like paupers after the great world championship battle won by Argentina.

Maybe this is not worth telling, but you must've punished the millionaire NBA showmen after one of them, drunken, heavily tattooed, was spotted by an Asian basketball dignitary chasing a member of the US women's cage team on deck.

The Olympics is not about to become an ode to Dionysius right in your backyard.

At least, you've made sure that henceforth, the world will no longer buy it once the NBA again declares its league as the true world basketball championship.

***

Of course, the whole world is still wondering why your Games organizers bothered to put a roof over the main stadium, when the Olympics were held in summer.

This is not Wimbledon, where it rains almost everyday during the greatest tennis series.

But thank you, just the same.

If the overhead covering was part of the security provisions, you've more than made your point.

The Games finished splendidly, with no terror incident whatsoever, and you truly deserve the biggest gold medal of the Games.

You just showed us all and proved what the great Jim Murray had said that, "neither wars, nor boycotts, nor terrorists, nor economic hardships can kill the Olympics."

You've just affirmed that the Olympics, which you started, is indestructible.

***

Thank you for the splendid party, which you made into a successful celebration of youth and fitness.

Your opening ceremonies, unforgettable as they were, may be rivaled by the ones they mounted in Barcelona and Sydney.

There was the archer in 1992 in Spain who lit the Olympic Flame with an arrow shot into the air. Sydney could have scored a world record in dazzle with its bright, bursting opening pageant.

But nothing beats how you closed your new Olympics in sweet solemnity.

That beautiful angel of a girl blowing the Flame out was sheer unforgettable magic.

Your Games started at the height of summer, but closed out with the nifty evening air whispering the rumor of autumn, under a full moon.

And you telling the world with that kiss from a young girl, this is all a child's dream.

Big show by SEAG rivals alarms . . .

From page A25

Puentevella, came to Athens and even marched with the athletes during the opening ceremonies.)

The weightlifting gold medals were won by Udompom Polsak in the women's 53 kg class and Pawina Thongsuk in the women's 75 kg. Wandee Kameain and Aree Wiratthaworn won the bronze in the 58 kg and 48 kg classes, respectively.

Thailand's other gold came from boxing through light welterweight Manus Boonjomnong, conqueror of Filipino boxer Romeo Brin. He was one of three Thais, out of the six who qualified for Athens, who made it to the medal round.

Indonesia's only gold came from badminton where Taufik Hidayat won the men's singles over Korea's Shon Seung Mo. Hidayat was one of the 14 Indonesians entered in badminton alone.

Indonesia's silver came from weightlifting through Raema Lisa Rumbewas in the 53 kg.

The performances of Thailand and Indonesia and the promise showed by Malaysia are an unmistakable message to the Philippines.

It says: Manila, here we come.

CARLOS Moya of Spain returns to Brian Baker of the United States at the US Open Monday. Moya prevailed. AP

Favorites show mettle

NEW YORK—Former World No. 1 Serena Williams' march toward reclaiming her US Open title began in stunning fashion on Monday when she overpowered Sandra Kleinova, 6-1, 6-3, in a first round match.

Williams made quick work of Kleinova, taking just 53 minutes to finish off the 26-year-old from the Czech Republic in front of 23,000 fans at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

There were no major upsets on opening day of the $17.8 million Grand Slam event as men's top seed Roger Federer hammered out a 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 win over 2002 French Open champ Albert Costa and sixth seed Andre Agassi defeated Robby Ginepri, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-2.

Williams advances to the second round where she will square off with countrywoman Lindsay Lee-Waters.

Second seed Amelie Mauresmo, who is searching for her first career Grand Slam title, cruised past Marissa Irvin, 6-4, 6-2, on the opening day. Japan's Ai Sugiyama was also an opening day winner, beating Teryn Ashley, of the US, 7-5, 6-2.

Tenth seed Vera Zvonareva, of Russia, routed Slovakia's Henrieta Nagyova, 6-1, 6-1 and Jennifer Capriati came charging back to defeat Denisa Chladkova, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2.

On the men's side, third seed Carlos Moya rallied to beat unheralded American Brian Baker, 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2, and Cyril Saulnier, of France, outlasted Britain's Greg Rusedski, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (9/7).

Other seeded men's winners included 19th seed Nicolas Kiefer, 16th seed Andrei Pavel and 25th seed Jiri Novak, of Czech Republic.

Martin retires

American Todd Martin announced his retirement on Monday, following a first round loss to France's Fabrice Santoro. Martin once reached the No. 4 world ranking and was runner-up at the 1999 US Open. *AFP*

SPORTSWATCH

DLSU women netters enter semis

DE LA Salle University stunned University of the Philippines, 2-1, and advanced to the semifinals of the women's team event of the 2004 Milo All-Students Tennis Championships over the weekend at the Valle Verde Sports Club in Pasig. DLSU joined University of Santo Tomas, College of St. Benilde and DLSU-A in the Final Four of the event organized by CTW and supported by adidas and Prince/Nassau as the official balls. In the men's team event, UST ousted DLSU-B, 3-0; CSB blanked Ateneo 3-0; Polytechnic University of the Philippines routed UP, 3-0; and DLSU-A squeaked past UST-B, 2-1.

Philta to host three int'l junior tilts

PHILIPPINE Tennis Association, in cooperation with Futures Tennis Scholarship Foundation, will hold three international junior tournaments from Sept. 21 to Oct. 10 at the Ynares Socio-Cultural and Sports Center in Pasig City. The first event, billed as the Asian 14-Under Series, will be held on Sept. 21-25. Scheduled from Sept. 27 to Oct. 3 is the Enervon Tablet International Juniors Championships, to be followed by the Phinma Group International Juniors Championships on Oct. 4-10. Registration is open at the Philta office (525-6434) and Futures Tennis Scholarship Foundation (634-4199).

NBA Madness features 3-on-3

THE 3-ON-3, basketball's favorite pick-up version, will be given a new twist when Globe Gentxt brings this competition to new heights at the NBA Madness set at the SM Megamall Parking Lot C from Sept. 2 to 5. Basketball-crazy kids aged 14-22 years old may bond themselves into groups of up to four each and register as one team for the Globe Gentxt NBA 3-on-3. There are three age categories to join: under-16, under-18 and under-23. The age category of the team will be determined by the age of the oldest member. Interested participants may now register at Events.work. NBA Madness 2004 is presented by Coca-Cola, Globe Gentxt, Growee, Solar Sports and MYX. For information, call Events.work at 890-777 and ask for Sharleen, Shirley or Nelia.

Bicolanos hold golfest at Navy course

THE MANILA-Bicol Golfers Association, composed of Bicol golfers in Metro Manila and their friends, will hold an invitational golf tournament on Friday at the Philippine Navy Golf Course to raise funds for the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres and the Peñafrancia Basilica. Tee-off time is from 10 a.m. to noon. Ticket (P5,000) covers green fee, caddie fee, insurance and other fees being collected by the course. Participants can also win raffle prizes and enjoy dinner with entertainment. Interested parties may contact Sevilando Yadao at 410-4359 or Dr. Genniele Roman (0917-534-8061).

FG Patafa induction main guest

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo will be the guest speaker and inducting officer when the national executive board of the Philippine Track and Field Association takes their oath on Sept. 15 at the Century Park Hotel ballroom. Immigration Commissioner Alipio F. Fernandez Jr. will be installed as new Patafa chair. Incumbent president Go Teng Kok also received a fresh four-year mandate that will usher in his 13th year as athletics big boss. Other invitees are PSC chair Eric Buhain and Commissioners William Ramirez, Bonifacio de Luna, Leon Montemayor and Michael Barredo. POC officials, led by Celso Dayrit and presidents of national sports associations, have also been invited. Also to be sworn in are Ramon Yu, executive vice president, SS Lee, VP for Administration; Cham Teng Young, VP for Finance; lawyer Nicanor Sering, VP for Training and Selection; Ben Silva-Netto and Maricor Pacheco, secretary general and deputy, respectively; and Ray Roquero, sectoral director for local government units. The regional directors will also be inducted.

Best of the Best taekwondo on

THE SAMSUNG Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships, featuring Athens Olympians Marie Antoinette Rivero, Donald Geisler and Tshomlee Go, unfolds at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City today. Close to 400 jins are vying for honors in the three-category tournament starting at 2 p.m. Action in the seniors division kicks off the five-day championship that has gathered taekwondo practitioners from Batangas, Laguna, Pampanga, Bulacan, Baguio, Pangasinan and Nueva Ecija. Survivors of the Cebu and Davao regional eliminations are also in the fold, making the event truly national in scope.

GCAP 5-stag series begins Monday

DERBY aficionados can expect exciting matches when the Gentleman Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stag Derby series begins on Monday at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Patrick Antonio, GCAP president, said all seven GCAP derbies will be staged at the Las Piñas Coliseum every Monday. Sponsors of the series are Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pagcor. The GCAP members are Gov. Ito Ynares, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Rep. Rudy Albano, Patrick Antonio, Mayor Ashley Arayata, Richard Bates, Bulljack Fortaleza, Rioichi Saito, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Eric dela Rosa, Pol Estrellado, Jet Fernando, Sonny Lagon, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, Ramon Mancenares, Pepito Ngo, Gerry Ramos, Boy de Roca, Boy Royo, Manny and Arman Santos, Blandy Tolentino and Bong Villanueva. Meanwhile, Cavite International Nov. 29 of Sen. Ramon Revilla and Wild Fire of Ted Jiao shared championship honors in the "Annual Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby" last week.

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Negros lasses stall NCR XI; Davao scores

NEGROS Oriental held title favorite National Capital Region to a 1-1 draw and Davao surged to its third straight win yesterday in the PFF-SuperFerry National Women's Football Championship at the Marikina Sports Center in Marikina City.

The Negros side, 1-0 victors over Baguio Monday, proved to be a tough nut to crack for NCR, which was coming off a 6-0 thrashing of Cagayan de Oro-Misamis Oriental late Monday in the 10-team tournament for women 19 years and older.

Negros Oriental took the lead in Group B with a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record while NCR dropped to second at 2-1-0.

Davao continued to lord it over Group A by whipping Iloilo, 3-1, just ahead of Iligan which scored its second win in a row with a 9-0 thumping of Zamboanga.

GAMES TODAY
(Marikina Sports Center)
8 a.m.—Negros Occidental vs Zamboanga
10 a.m.—Baguio vs Cagayan-Misamis
1 p.m.—Iligan vs Iloilo
3 p.m.—Cebu vs Negros Oriental

After "A Walk To Remember," comes
"THE NOTEBOOK"
... fall in love again

Like "A Walk to Remember," ." The Notebook" is another adaptation of best seller writer Nicholas Sparks. It is a story of a poor, young country boy who falls in love with a rich girl during one heated summer romance, but is eventually faced with her parents' disapproval and her end-of-season trip home. The loving couple are further separated by the war, but do ultimately meet again, years later, with one having "moved on" and the other...well, not so much. Romance, laughs and true love...ensues.

Romance is a tough nut to crack, but I think this film manages to capture its pure essence with innocence and vulnerability in full tow, not to mention a hefty dose of chemistry between the two leads, Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams, both of whom offer powerful performances. Audiences will get into both of their characters from the get-go and will be particularly taken by Gosling, but who hadn't really shown us this side of his chops before. Here, he played the "romantic guy" and pulled it off gangbusters!

Viewers can relate to the film's deeper message about the ongoing power of true love and fall for most every sweet moment (their initial meeting, their love-making sequence, the possible break-up, etc...), every romantic gesture (the amusement park, the 'follow the arrow' routine, the boat ride through the geese-filled pond, etc...) and every predictable, yet quite believable and poignant, turn in narrative.

This film also set up a credible love-triangle a la SWEET HOME ALABAMA, that viewers can always appreciate, particularly when all of the characters are fleshed out enough to truly be invested in its outcome. Cyclops (a dashing James Marsden) played the third wheel here and did so admirably. This film is packed with plenty of mushy goodness, great acting, palpable chemistry, sweet nothings, impressive cinematography, romance galore and even some humorous touches to keep things light.

ADVT

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9:30pm CINEMA 1
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(SWEDEN)
Deadline takes us behind the scenes in the high-pressure world of news reporting as a journalist tries to uncover the mystery behind a bomb blast in the newly constructed Olympic Stadium.
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CINE EUROPA 7: THE BIGGER PICTURE
BLACK METEOR
by Guido Pieters
This is a film that tells of how the arrival of the South African player Steve Mokone turned the sleepy town of Almelo on its head.
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE
by Hu Mei
In the early 30's Fanny went to China to marry a man she barely knew. This is the story of their courtship and travails.
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SM CINEMA
what to watch
Romance
THE NOTEBOOK
As a man (Garner) reads from a faded notebook to the woman (Rowlands) he regularly visits, his words bring to life the story of a couple (Gosling and McAdams) who are separated by World War II, then passionately reunited 7 years later, after they have taken different paths. Though her memory has faded, his words give her the chance to relive her turbulent youth and the unforgettable love they shared.
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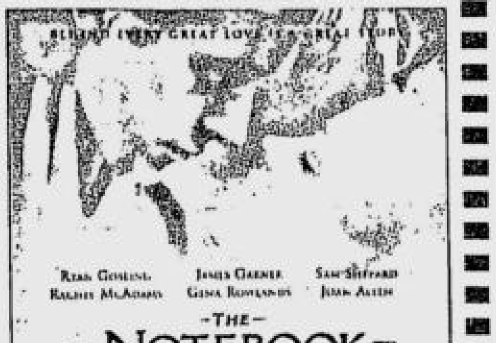

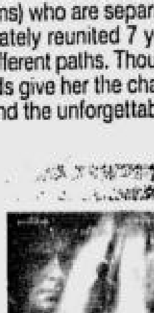

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1	ANACONDAS
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3	THUNDERBIRDS
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5	SUPER SIZE ME
6	CONNIE AND CARLA
7	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
8	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
9	THE NOTEBOOK
10	ANACONDAS
11	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
12	COLLATERAL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1	ANACONDAS
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4	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7	ANACONDAS
8	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9	THE NOTEBOOK
10	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
11	I, ROBOT
12	THE VILLAGE

SM CITY MANILA
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1	THUNDERBIRDS
2	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3	THE VILLAGE
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9	ANACONDAS
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11	SUPER SIZE ME
12	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

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5	THE NOTEBOOK
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7	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
8	ANACONDAS

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4	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
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8	THUNDERBIRDS
9	THE NOTEBOOK
10	THE VILLAGE

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3	THE NOTEBOOK
4	PRINCESS DIARIES 2

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1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3	STEPFORD WIVES
4	ANACONDAS

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1	ANACONDAS
2	ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5	STEPFORD WIVES
6	PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
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2	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	ANACONDAS

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SM CITY LAS PIÑAS
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1	CONNIE AND CARLA
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
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4	THE NOTEBOOK
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7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
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10	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

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1	ANACONDAS
2	THE NOTEBOOK
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT
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1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3	ANACONDAS
4	THE NOTEBOOK

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1	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3	ANACONDAS
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6	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
7	THUNDERBIRDS
8	ANACONDAS

SM CITY DASMA
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1	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2	CINDERELLA STORY
3	STEPFORD WIVES
4	ANACONDAS

SM CITY LUCENA
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1	DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
2	GARFIELD
3	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
4	CINDERELLA STORY

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU
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1	alien vs. predator
2	DEAD PEOPLE
3	CINDERELLA STORY
4	STEPFORD WIVES
5	THE VILLAGE
6	ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8	ANACONDAS

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1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
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3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	CINDERELLA STORY
5	THUNDERBIRDS
6	THE VILLAGE
7	RESERVED
8	GARFIELD

SM CITY DAVAO
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1	ANACONDAS
2	UNINVITED
3	ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
4	THE VILLAGE
5	GARFIELD
6	CINDERELLA STORY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592804

1	THE ALAMO
2	STEPFORD WIVES
3	GARFIELD
4	THE VILLAGE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1
CONNIE AND CARLA
11:20 FS/ 11:55MF/ 2:05/4:15/ 6:25/ 8:25/ 10:10 LFS/10:45 LMF/ 12:20 END

2
THE NOTEBOOK
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/2:20/5:10/ 8:00/10:30 LFS/ 10:50 LMF/1:20 END

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SM Megamall, 8:00pm
SWEET NIGHTMARE (Portugal)
SM Megamall Cinema 6, 7:00pm
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1 (DOLBY)	CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT
2 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS PG-13
3 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP
4 (DOLBY)	THE STEPFORD WIVES PG-13

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	THE NOTEBOOK PG-13

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1. (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
2.	THE NOTEBOOK
3.	ALIEN VS, PREDATO
4.	HAMOG
5.	SUGAT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	RESERVE
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	SUGAT
4 (SDDS)	HAMOG
5	THUNDERBIRDS
6 (DOLBY)	ALIEN VS, PREDATO
7 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA Gold
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	HAMOG
2	ANACONDAS
3	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	HAMOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	ANACONDAS
5	THE NOTEBOOK

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	SUGAT
2	HAMOG
3	THE NOTEBOOK
4	PRINCESS DIARIES-2
5 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
6	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
2	SUGAT

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	ANACONDAS
2 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 GOLD (DTS)	CONNIE & CARLA
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ANACONDAS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES-2
8 [illegible]	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 [illegible]	THE NOTEBOOK
10 [illegible]	LAWS OF ATTRACTION

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3 (Dolby)	ANACONDAS
4 (SDDS)	THE NOTEBOOK
5 (DTS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 (Dolby)	JANDARA
7 (Dolby)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANACONDAS
2	NOTEBOOK
3	HAMOG
4	

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	SOON TO OPEN
2	SOON TO OPEN
3 (DTS EX)	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	STEPFORD WIVES
2	THE PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
4 (DTS)	ANACONDAS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	CINDERELLA STORY
2	THE VILLAGE
3 (DOLBY)	COLLATERAL
4 (DTS)	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	GARFIELD
2	THE VILLAGE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
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1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 (DOLBY)	CONNIE & CARLA
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
4 (DOLBY)	THE NOTEBOOK

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	HAMOG
2	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
3 (DTS)	ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	
2 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
4	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
3 (DTS)	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4	DEAD PEOPLE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2	THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	ELLA ENCHANTED
2	WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
3 (DOLBY)	DEAD PEOPLE
4 (DTS)	THE CINDERELLA STORY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327

1	ANACONDAS
2	PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	WILD BUTTERFLY
2	COLLATERAL
3	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 (DTS)	HAMOG

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
2	HAMOG
3 (DTS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5	TEEN PLAY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	HAMOG
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS)	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY)	

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DEATH CURSE
2	THUNDERBIRD
3	KARELASYON
4	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	ANACONDAS
2	SUGAT

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PG-13
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MATHEW BRODERICK
BETTE MIDLER
CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
FAITH HILL AND GLENN CLOSE
The Stepford Wives
StepfordWives.com
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Are you a Stepford husband?
Couples, ask yourselves:
Would you move to Stepford?
Watch and find out....

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'One night, one stand'

HOST: What beauty tips can you share with our viewers?

Guest: When you make-up, *huwag kalimutan ang eyebrow ang magpapaganda ng inyong kilay!*

(Eyebrow? *Kilay? 'Di ba pareho 'yon?* Oh, eyebrow pencil!)

***

Host: What is keeping you from really succeeding in show biz thus far?

Guest: Thus far, I think I'm afraid to be in front of people, so I'm just in front of myself *na lang.*

(Boy, you really have a problem...)

***

Host: What advice can you give to new talents who want to make it in show business?

Guest: My advice is, nothing is hard if you don't at least try!

(*Ano raw?*)

***

Host: I hear you had a difficult childhood?

Guest: Yes, my parents were so poor, they hardly had enough income to meet what they have.

(Uh, please translate?)

***

Host: Doctor, here's a question from a viewer about our topic today, pregnancy problems.

Guest: Ok, I'll try to help.

Host: Her question: *Ano ang dapat gawin na preparation ng mga kunyari buntis?*

(*Wala. Kunyari lang pala, e.*)

***

Host: When you were a party girl, how many men did you have intimate relations with in one night?

Guest: No, not like

ONE/ A29

'One night...

From page A28

that, I was not a prostitute. Just one night, one stand only.

(Ah, so...)

***

Host: So, the use of condoms will bring down both pregnancy and sexual diseases?

Guest: Definitely. So, women must know how to help put in on their partner.

Host: Really? Well, *tingnan ko kung kaya kong ipasok ang* condom *sa* organ *ng lalaki.*

(Huwag, masakit 'yon.)

***

Host: Tell us about your new movie.

Guest: Well, it's a film about *Word* War II—*ay,* no, *Wold* War II. Wow, *ang hirap i*-pronounce!

(World War II. What's so hard about pronouncing that? *Bulol ka lang kasi...*)

***

Host: So, who caused the accident?

Field Reporter: According to the police, the truck. *Tinamaan ang* kotse *ng* truck *na diumano'y lasing.*

(*Ay, lasing ang* truck!)

***

Host: How do you keep your complexion looking so smooth? Share *naman, o.*

Guest: You have to clean your face with acetone. *Ay,* no with astringent, *pala*!

(We're so glad you made that correction!)

'Dreamcatcher'

CINEMAX screens "Dreamcatcher" at 9 p.m. on Sept. 12. This terrifying thriller is about four childhood friends who, now all grown up, go on a hunting trip in the woods. They have telepathic abilities that come in handy when a blizzard strikes, in which something much more ominous moves. Stars include **Thomas Jane, Donnie Wahlberg** and **Morgan Freeman.**

'National Security'

ON HBO, the film on view at 9 p.m. on Sept. 11 is "National Security." **Martin Lawrence** plays a security guard, and **Steve Zahn** is an uptight police officer. They get on each other's nerves, but must get over their differences to go after some warehouse burglars.

More movies on TV

ON HBO, Sept. 1, at 10 p.m., "The Gathering Storm." Sept. 2 at 7:45 a.m., "The Browning Version." Sept. 3 at 9 p.m., "The Time Machine."

On Cinemax, Sept. 1 at 6 a.m., "The Prince and the Showgirl." Sept. 2 at 6:45 p.m., "The Prince of Tides." Sept. 3 at 5:15 p.m, "The Age of Innocence."

Kadayawan

ABS-CBN, Regional Network Group, Studio 23 and The Filipino Channel recently brought Davao's Kadayawan festival to national and international

ONE/ A30

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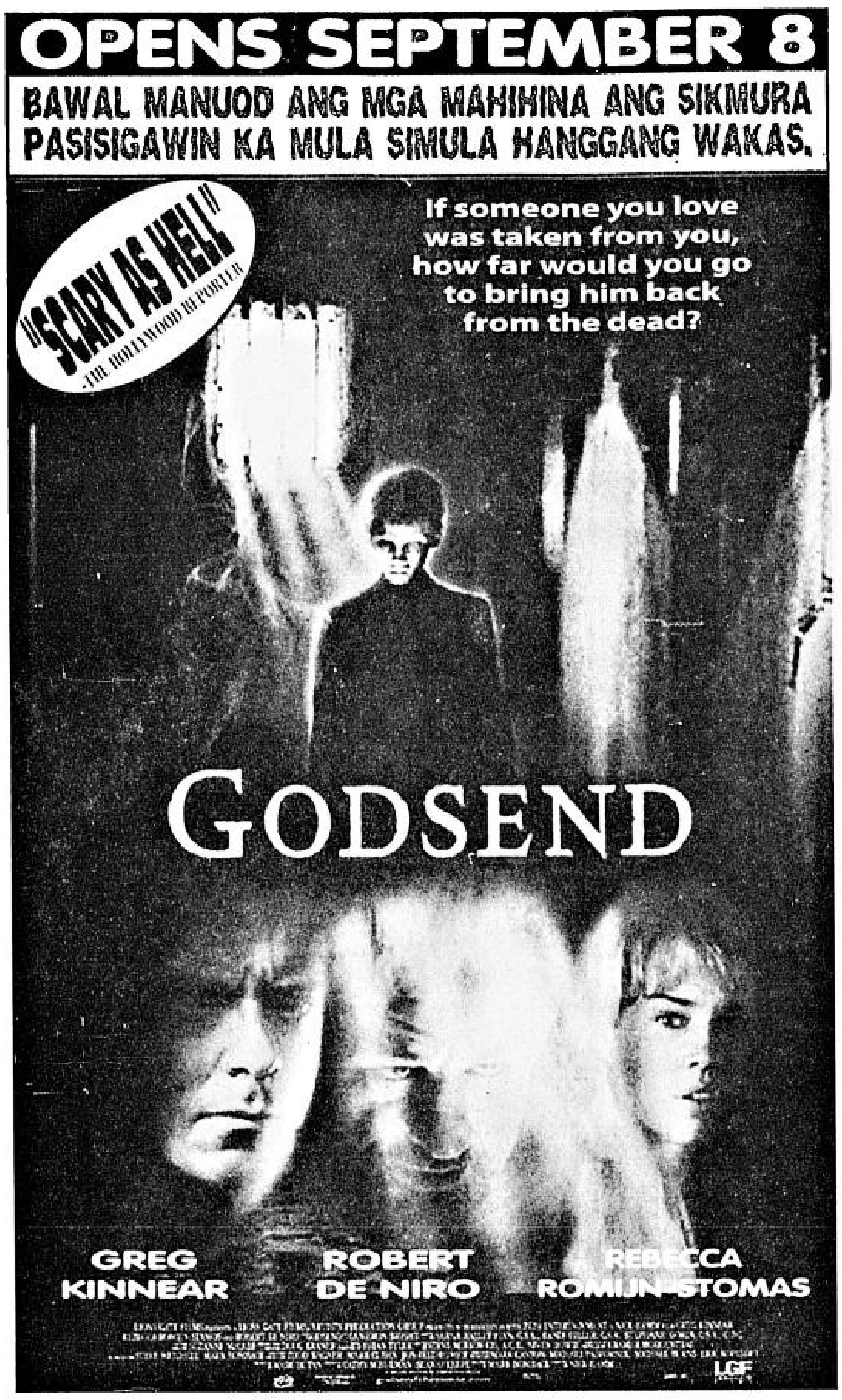
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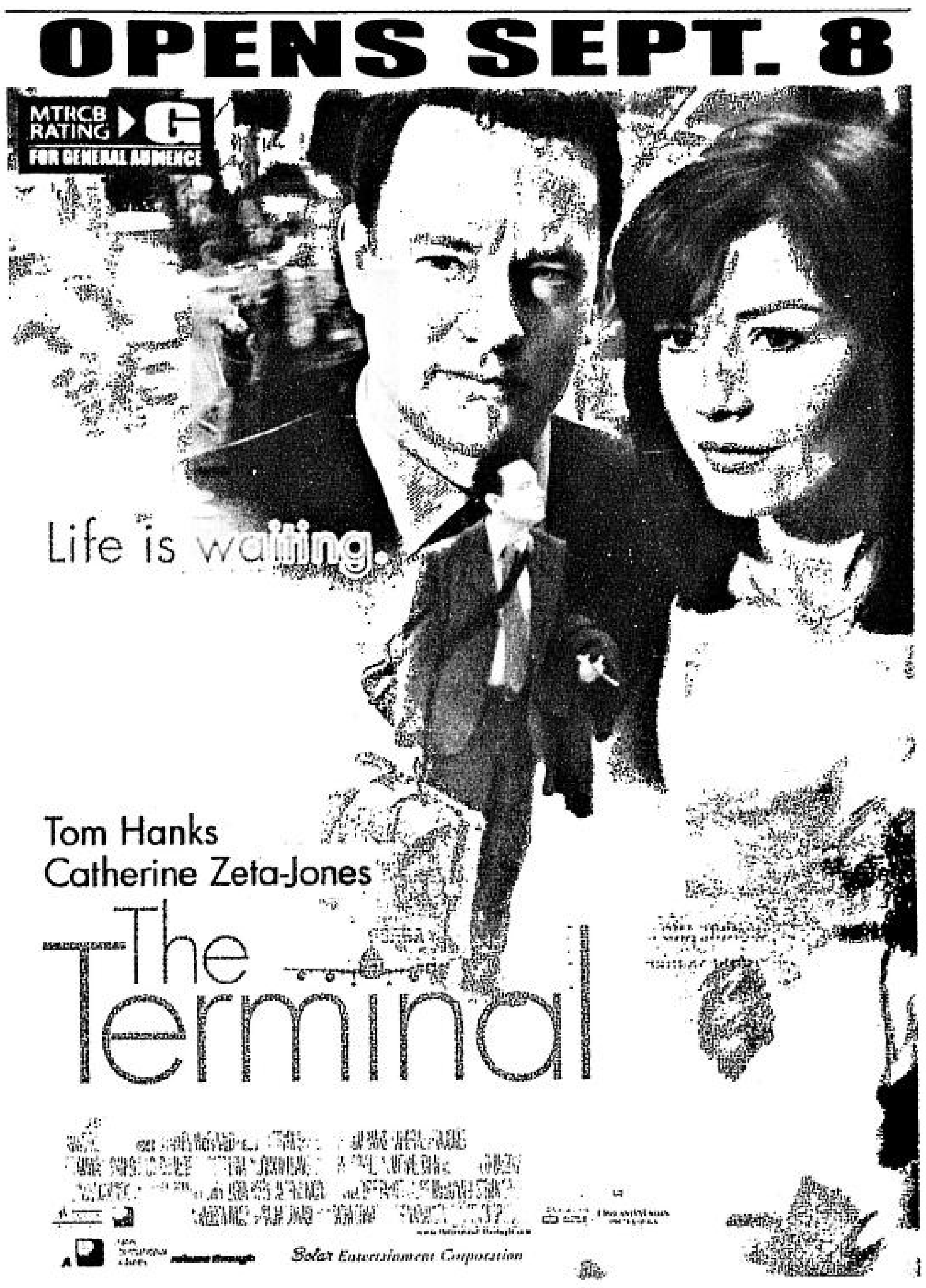
"SCARY AS HELL" THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
If someone you love was taken from you, how far would you go to bring him back from the dead?
GODSEND
GREG KINNEAR ROBERT DE NIRO REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS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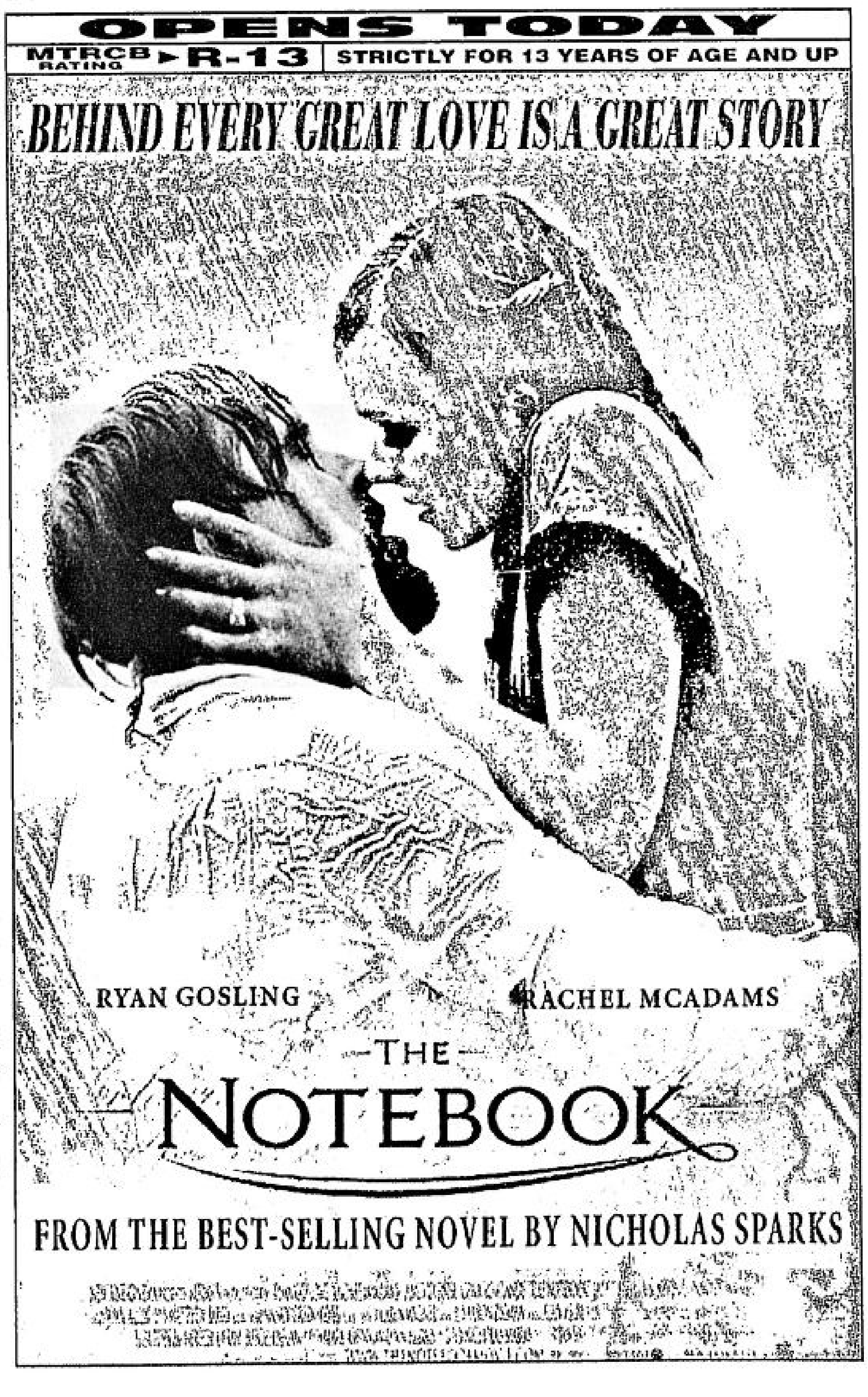
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9 JANDARA
10 THE VILLAGE
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5 CONNIE AND CARLA
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

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2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 ANACONDAS
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
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8 THE VILLAGE

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4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

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2 ANACONDAS
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4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

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3 HAMOG
4 ANACONDAS
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3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 KARELASYON

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2 HAMOG
3 THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 A CINDERELLA STORY
5 ANACONDAS

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4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
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6 ANACONDAS

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2 HAMOG
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ANACONDAS
5 ANACONDAS
6 THUNDERBIRDS

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2 GARFIELD
3 THE VILLAGE
4 A CINDERELLA STORY
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
6 SYLVIA

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 A CINDERELLA STORY
2 SYLVIA
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4 THE VILLAGE
5 MAKAMUNDO
6 THUNDERBIRDS

KAYA MO BA 'TO?
SUPER SIZE ME

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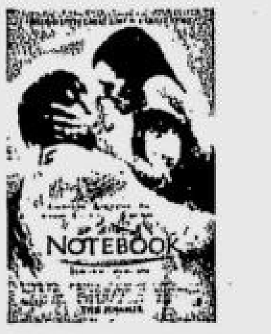

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AT THE CENTER

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BEST OF THE BEST SAMSUNG TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP September 1 to 5, 2004	NINA LIVE! September 5, 6:00pm	CEBU UNITING FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER PROGRAM September 4, 8:30am to 12noon

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) feat. The Real Groove (Thu), Pido w/ Take One (Fri), Mae Bayot w/ Acoustic Jive (Sat)	WWF SAVOUR NATURE Greenbelt 3 Lobby, September 1 to 14

Onstage Rep's Globe Theater presents PINOCCHIO
August 7 to December 12

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AYALA CINEMAS

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 ANACONDAS	1 CONNIE & CARLA	1 CONNIE & CARLA	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE NOTEBOOK 2 50, 5 40, 8 30, 11 20	1 ANACONDAS
2 THE NOTEBOOK	2 ANACONDAS	2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	6 ANACONDAS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 ANACONDAS 2 40, 4 45, 6 50, 8 55, 11 00	2 A CINDERELLA STORY
		GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 THE NOTEBOOK 11 10, 2 00, 4 50, 7 40, 10 30			
3 CONNIE & CARLA	3 THE NOTEBOOK	4 THE STEPFORD WIVES	7 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	3 THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	GB1 GREENBELT 1		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1 40, 4 00, 6 20, 8 40, 11 00	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2		1 SUPER SIZE ME			
		2 ANACONDAS 11 25, 1 30, 3 35, 5 40, 7 45, 9 50		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CONNIE & CARLA 2 55, 5 00, 7 05, 9 10, 11 15	5 THE VILLAGE

For movie screening schedules, call the Ayala Cinema Links:

AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA MALLS Loveèmall!

GREENBELT 1 ArtFilm
AYALA CINEMAS

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SUPER SIZE ME

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AT ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1
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Music by Jim Eiler and Jeanne Bargy
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AYALA MALLS
Loveèmall!

Remonde takes charge of NBN, RPN, IBC

CERGE M. Remonde, chair and chief executive officer of RPN 9, has been assigned a new Cabinet post by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Remonde now heads the Government Media Group.

In his new post, Remonde will have direct control and supervision of National Broadcasting Network (NBN) Channel 4, Radio Philippines Network (RPN) Channel 9, Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. (IBC) Channel 13, the Radyo ng Bayan of the Bureau of Broadcasts, the Bureau of Communication Services and the Journal Group of Publications.

Remonde brings with him his rich experience as chair and CEO of RPN 9 for several years now, national chair of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (Ad-Board), chair of the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists (FFFJ), commissioner of Unesco, adviser to the Peace Panel, chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) Appeals Committee, and columnist of The Manila Bulletin.

Remonde first joined the Arroyo group in 2001 as Press undersecretary and executive director of Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM).

He was later appointed chair and CEO of IBC 13 before he occupied the same posts at RPN 9.

Remonde played a crucial role in the last presidential campaign in his capacity as media bureau chief of the winning K-4 Coalition of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A native of Argao, Cebu, Remonde was named Outstanding Cebuano, along with Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., by the Cebu City government in 2000.

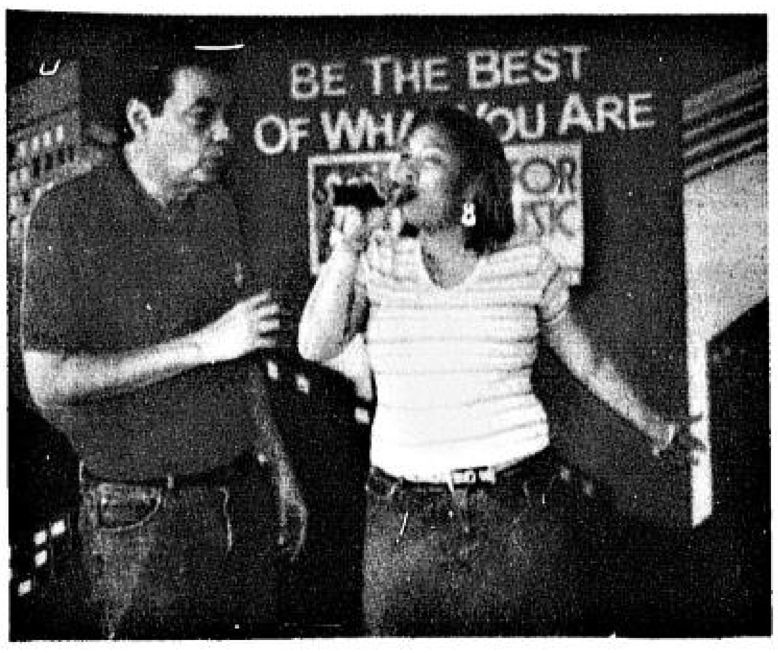
'One night, one stand'

From page A29

prominence with their extensive coverage.

The network's talents trooped to Davao for a big show last Aug. 21. A warm welcome greeted hosts Margie Moran, Angel Aquino, Vhong Navarro and ABS-CBN Davao talents. Fans went wild over the performances of Bea Alonzo, John Lloyd Cruz, Aiza Marquez, Danilo Barrios, Animé, Joey Ayala, etc.!

This year's Kadayawan echoed the theme, "Usbaw Labaw, Davao!" (Grow Beyond Davao!), inspiring viewers to move towards a more peaceful and developed Mindanao.



CHAMPION MAKER
Butch Albarracin, founder and president of the Center for Pop Music Philippines Inc., trains Frenchie Dy in preparation for her participation in ABS-CBN's "Star in a Million." Frenchie recently emerged the grand champion of the singing competition, following in the footsteps of previous champions Erik Santos and Rachelle Ann Go, who are also products of the 20-year-old Center for Pop Music together with Sandara Park, Sarah Geronimo, Nyoy Volante, Nina, King, Josh Santana, Nikki Valdez and many others.

Chicago Jazz Quartet plays at the Shang

SHANGRI-LA Plaza rolls out the red carpet for the touring band Chicago Jazz Quartet, which will perform in an invitational show at the Shang Cineplex Cinema 1 tomorrow, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m.

The group, composed of pianist Benjamin Lewis, vocalist and trumpeter Matt Lewis, bassist Lorin Cohen and drummer Michael Raynor, is on their Jazz Ambassador Tour of East Asia, which started this month and has taken them to four other countries. The tour is sponsored by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, under the auspices of the US State Department.

The Chicago Jazz Quartet performs, educates and presents vocal jazz to the people it meets on tour—including local dignitaries and local musicians.

For more information, call 525-0426 or 528-6300 extension 2525, 2542 or 2524.

Dely...

From page A32

but I feel okay," Dely, speaking in Filipino, had told INQUIRER Entertainment.

During the entire interview, she was lying in bed, sitting up only for the photographer. She could no longer walk since 2002, Quizon said.

Dely was the daughter of painter and composer Amado Fernando and singer Carmen Marquez. She began her show biz career as a *kundiman* singer at the Palace Theater in Sta. Cruz, Manila. She toured the country with a *bodabil* troupe from 1930 to 1934.

She was also a radio voice talent, but she became more popular as a comedian after appearing in comedy movies like "Lakambini" opposite her late husband, Alejandro Villegas, known in the movies as Andoy Balun-balunan.

Even during World War II, she continued performing in comedy skits at the Life Theater in Quiapo and the Manila Grand Opera House in Sta. Cruz under the direction of Lou Salvador Sr.

From the '70s to the '80s, she concentrated on "John en Marsha," with Dolphy and the late Nida Blanca. She was famous for her weekly punchline to her son-in-law, "*Kaya ikaw, John, magsumikap ka!*"

GODSEND

RETURN FROM THE DEAD
IN ONE SINGLE CELL.

Welcome to the clone zone: splicing together the celluloid DNA of The Omen, Jacob's Ladder and The Sixth Sense, Godsend is a haunting chiller that toys with ripped-from-the-headlines fears about genetic engineering. It's a high concept premise, but it's one that the movie quickly drops in favour of an old-fashioned spookfest in which ghosts replace genomes, and Adam Mk II starts having nightmares and seeing dead people inside the house.

If someone you love was taken from you, how far would you go to bring him back from the dead ? This is the impossible question confronting grief-stricken Paul and Jessie Duncan (Greg Kinnear, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos) in the very graveyard where they are to bury their beloved eight year-old son, Adam (Cameron Bright). Into that moment of absolute despair steps Dr. Richard Wells (Robert De Niro) with a calm, reasoned, and utterly incredible offer. He can bring their son back, alive.With echoes of a Faustian bargain, Dr. Wells' offer comes with conditions.Soon Jessie gives birth at Wells' Godsend Fertility Clinic. The new Adam appears to be a perfect replica in every way, down to very the last cell. His life follows a comfortingly similar pattern until he passes his eighth birthday, the age the first ADAM died - and Adam II , unaware that he has reached a milestone, literally begins living on borrowed time.The Duncan's placid life is shattered at first by Adam's screams in the night.Adam spirals into the world of his nightmares and seemingly catching glimpses of dead people around him.Like the demonic Damien in The Omen, a sense of menace seems to hang about the boy as he lashes out at home and at school, this beautiful boy begins to seem dangerous., Paul uncovers the secrets of Dr. Well's past. In a violent and dramatic confrontation, the full, sickening truth comes out.From this moment on, the Duncan's will have to come to terms with what they have done and what has been done to them.

"EERIE SENSE OF MENACE"

Crafting some sphincter-tightening shock sequences, British director Nick Hamm is more interested in establishing an eerie sense of menace than in grappling with the film's mad science (given just how mad the science is, that really is a godsend). An expert at the kind of jumpy scares that will make most audiences spend more time in the air than their seats, Hamm turns everyday locations like bathrooms and bedroom closets into sites of terror, as hands, faces, and claw hammers loom into frame at unexpected moment.

ADVT

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1	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	12:00, 2:30, 5:00 7:30, 10:20	GP
2	CONNIE AND CARLA	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00	PG-13
3	ANACONDAS	11:35, 1:50, 4:05 6:20, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
4	THE NOTEBOOK	10:20, 1:20, 4:20 7:20, 10:30	PG-13

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LAWS OF ATTRACTION PG13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP 12:00,2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40	THE NOTEBOOK PG-13 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10
CONNIE AND CARLA PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	SUPER SIZE ME GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	ANACONDAS PG13 1:20,3:35,5:50,8:05,10:20

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CINEMA 2	ANACONDAS	10:50 , 1:05 , 3:20 , 5:35 , 7:50 , 10:10	PG13

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September 3 2004	NOAH SBIGBOAT	7PM
September 4 2004	MY SHEREE AMOR	9PM

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MTRCB ▶ PG-13
WHOEVER
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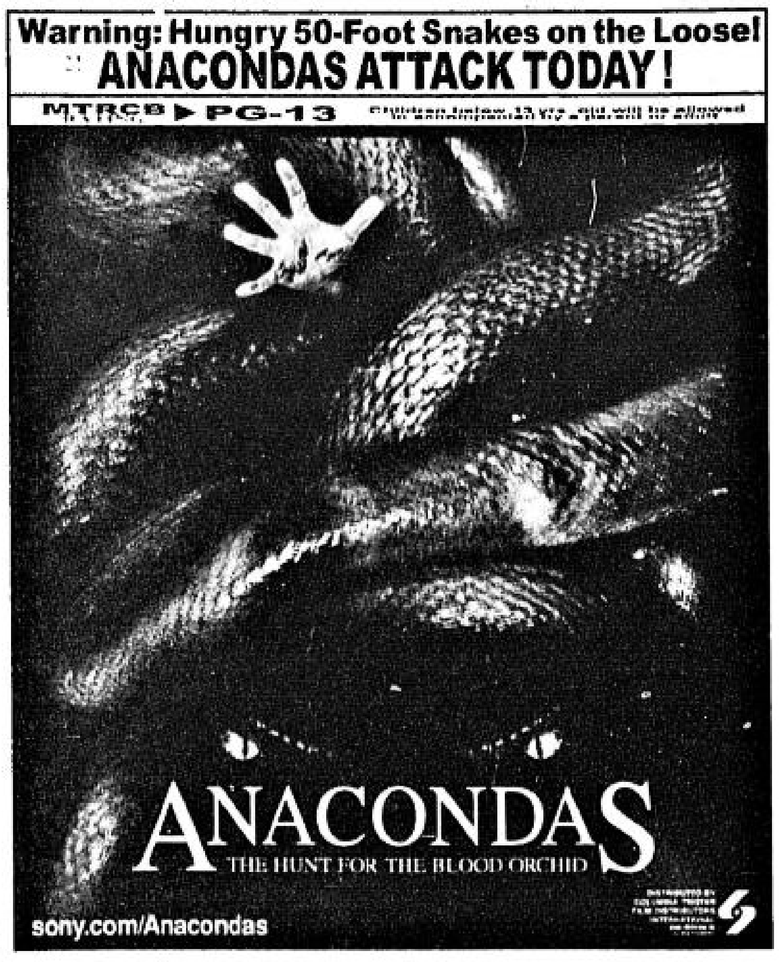
NOW SHOWING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ANACONDAS ATTACK TODAY!
MTRCB ▶ PG-13
ANACONDAS
THE HUNT FOR THE BLOOD ORCHID
sony.com/Anacondas

SHANG CINEPLEX

1	(CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT)	3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 (GP)
2	ANACONDAS (PG-13)	4	THE STEPFORD WIVES (PG-13)
PREMIERE THEATRE	THE NOTEBOOK (PG-13)		

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Shangri-La Plaza

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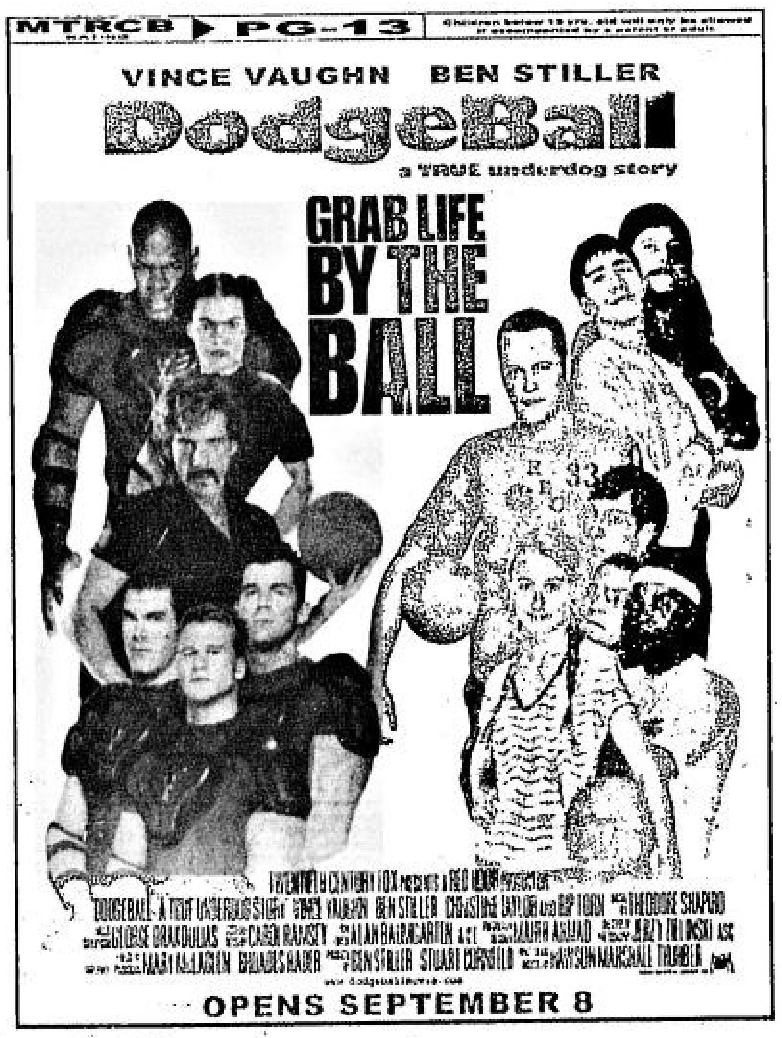

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Dely Atay-atayan, 90

By Marinel R. Cruz

DELY Atay-atayan, John Puruntong's nagging mother-in-law, is dead of old age at 90. She passed away last Monday night, according to her family.

Adelaida Villegas, known to Filipinos as Doña Delilah on TV's "John en Marsha" in the '70s, was declared dead on arrival at the Parañaque Medical Hospital, said her granddaughter, Amor Quizon.

Quizon said Dely had been having colds and fever a few weeks before she died.

Quizon is the mother of actor-commercial model Boy 2 Quizon. Her husband, Boy, is a son of comedian Dolphy, the son-in-law that Dely loved to nag on "John en Marsha."

Dely had been living with Quizon since 2002 at Barangay BF Homes in Parañaque, where INQUIRER Entertainment interviewed the comedian in May 2003 ("The mother-in-law we loved to laugh at" May 9, 2003).

Quizon said the family had been prepared for Dely's death. She said her grandmother did not suffer any major complications, but "was already very tired."

In 1997, Dely was hospitalized for pneumonia. A year later, she was hospitalized again for high blood pressure and severe stomach ache. She was also diagnosed with gallstones, but doctors refused to operate because she was already 85 and might not fully recover from the operation.

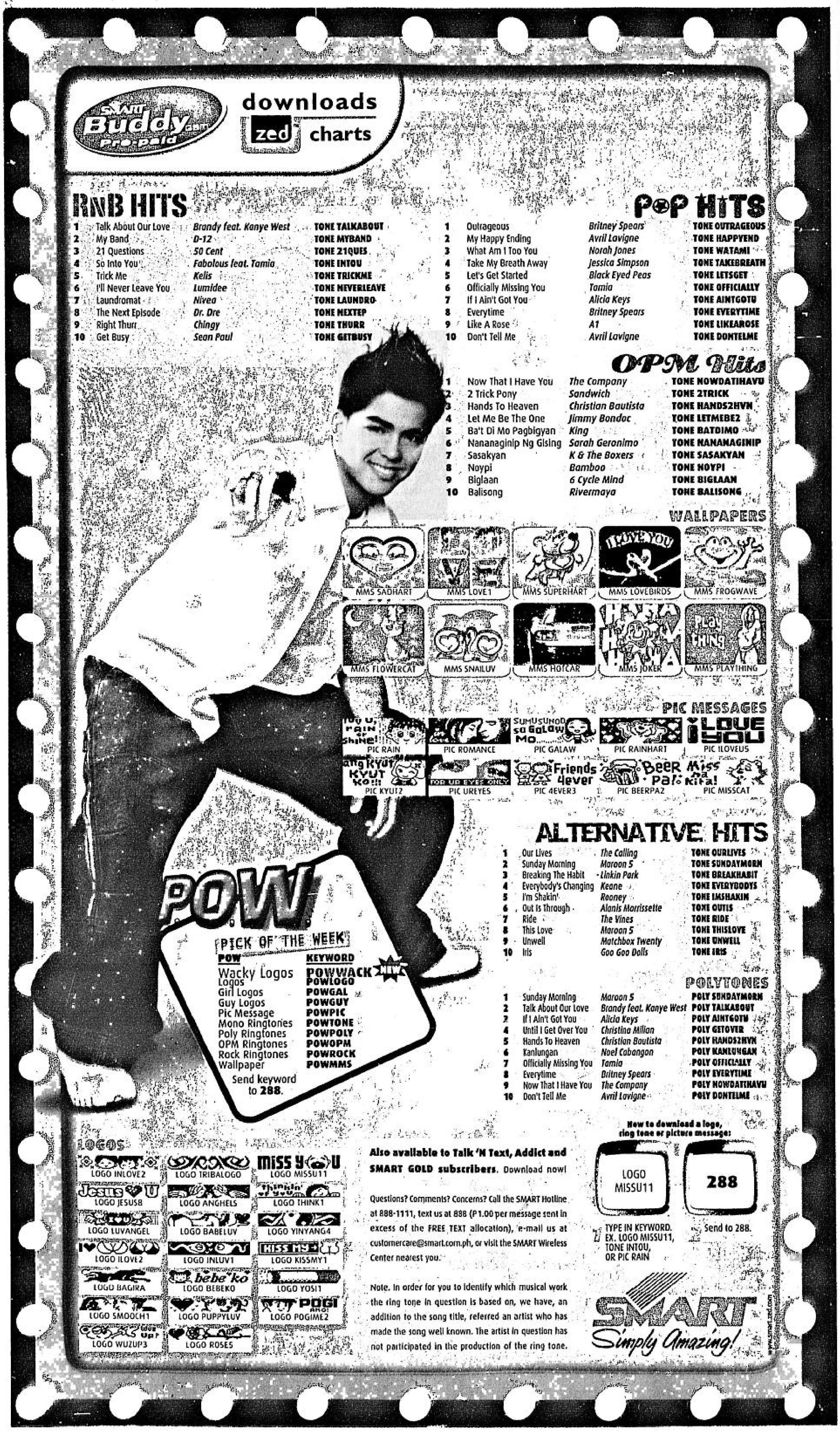
Dely's remains now lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel on Sucat Road, Parañaque. Burial will be on Sunday, Sept. 5.

"I'm weak because I'm already old,

DELY/A31

FUNNY LADY in the '70s (above) and in May 2003

ERIK ARAZAS



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RnB HITS

1	Talk About Our Love	Brandy feat. Kanye West	TONE TALKABOUT
2	My Band	D-12	TONE MYBAND
3	21 Questions	50 Cent	TONE 21QUES
4	So Into You	Fabolous feat. Tamia	TONE INTOU
5	Trick Me	Kelis	TONE TRICKME
6	I'll Never Leave You	Lumidee	TONE NEVERLEAVE
7	Laundromat	Nivea	TONE LAUNDRO
8	The Next Episode	Dr. Dre	TONE NEXTEP
9	Right Thurr	Chingy	TONE THURR
10	Get Busy	Sean Paul	TONE GETBUSY

POP HITS

1	Outrageous	Britney Spears	TONE OUTRAGEOUS
2	My Happy Ending	Avril Lavigne	TONE HAPPYEND
3	What Am I Too You	Norah Jones	TONE WATAMI
4	Take My Breath Away	Jessica Simpson	TONE TAKEBREATH
5	Let's Get Started	Black Eyed Peas	TONE LETSGET
6	Officially Missing You	Tamia	TONE OFFICIALLY
7	If I Ain't Got You	Alicia Keys	TONE AINTGOTU
8	Everytime	Britney Spears	TONE EVERYTIME
9	Like A Rose	A1	TONE LIKEAROSE
10	Don't Tell Me	Avril Lavigne	TONE DONTELME

OPM Hits

1	Now That I Have You	The Company	TONE NOWDATIHAVU
2	2 Trick Pony	Sandwich	TONE 2TRICK
3	Hands To Heaven	Christian Bautista	TONE HANDS2HVN
4	Let Me Be The One	Jimmy Bondoc	TONE LETMEBE2
5	Ba't Di Mo Pagbigyan	King	TONE BATDIMO
6	Nananaginip Ng Gising	Sarah Geronimo	TONE NANANAGINIP
7	Sasakyan	K & The Boxers	TONE SASAKYAN
8	Noypi	Bamboo	TONE NOYPI
9	Biglaan	6 Cycle Mind	TONE BIGLAAN
10	Balisong	Rivermaya	TONE BALISONG

WALLPAPERS
MMS SADHART
MMS LOVE1
MMS SUPERHART
MMS LOVEBIRDS
MMS FROGWAVE
MMS FLOWERCAT
MMS SNAILUV
MMS HOTCAR
MMS JOKER
MMS PLAYTHING

PIC MESSAGES
PIC RAIN
PIC ROMANCE
PIC GALAW
PIC RAINHART
PIC ILOVEUS
PIC KYUT2
PIC UREYES
PIC 4EVER3
PIC BEERPA2
PIC MISSCAT

ALTERNATIVE HITS

1	Our Lives	The Calling	TONE OURLIVES
2	Sunday Morning	Maroon 5	TONE SUNDAYMORN
3	Breaking The Habit	Linkin Park	TONE BREAKHABIT
4	Everybody's Changing	Keane	TONE EVERYBODYS
5	I'm Shakin'	Rooney	TONE IMSHAKIN
6	Out Is Through	Alanis Morrissette	TONE OUTIS
7	Ride	The Vines	TONE RIDE
8	This Love	Maroon 5	TONE THISLOVE
9	Unwell	Matchbox Twenty	TONE UNWELL
10	Iris	Goo Goo Dolls	TONE IRIS

POLYTONES

1	Sunday Morning	Maroon 5	POLY SUNDAYMORN
2	Talk About Our Love	Brandy feat. Kanye West	POLY TALKABOUT
3	If I Ain't Got You	Alicia Keys	POLY AINTGOTU
4	Until I Get Over You	Christina Milian	POLY GETOVER
5	Hands To Heaven	Christian Bautista	POLY HANDS2HVN
6	Kanlungan	Noel Cabangon	POLY KANLUNGAN
7	Officially Missing You	Tamia	POLY OFFICIALLY
8	Everytime	Britney Spears	POLY EVERYTIME
9	Now That I Have You	The Company	POLY NOWDATIHAVU
10	Don't Tell Me	Avril Lavigne	POLY DONTELME

POW
PICK OF THE WEEK

POW	KEYWORD
Wacky Logos	POWWACK NEW
Logos	POWLOGO
Girl Logos	POWGAL
Guy Logos	POWGUY
Pic Message	POWPIC
Mono Ringtones	POWTONE
Poly Ringtones	POWPOLY
OPM Ringtones	POWOPM
Rock Ringtones	POWROCK
Wallpaper	POWMMS

Send keyword to 288.

LOGOS
LOGO INLOVE2
LOGO TRIBALOGO
LOGO MISSU11
LOGO JESUS8
LOGO ANGHELS
LOGO THINK1
LOGO LUVANGEL
LOGO BABELUV
LOGO YINYANG4
LOGO ILOVE2
LOGO INLUV1
LOGO KISSMY1
LOGO BAGIRA
LOGO BEBEKO
LOGO YOSI1
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LOGO PUPPYLUV
LOGO POGIME2
LOGO WUZUP3
LOGO ROSES

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby ANACONDAS	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
4	SDDS THE NOTEBOOK	12:00 nn 3:00 pm 6:00 pm 9:00 pm
5	dts ALIEN vs PREDATOR	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6	Dolby JANDARA	11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
7	Dolby PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1:25 pm 3:55 pm 6:25 pm 8:55 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Sep 11	ATENEO vs F E U
Sep 12	UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION
Sep 15	JOHN MAXWELL in Manila
Sep 17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep 18	WRR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Sep 19	UAAP SEMIFINAL GAMES
Sep 23	UAAP GAME - FINALS
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY : LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ALYZS BOMBA QUEEN / DI MAPIGIL NA INIT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT: ANACONDAS/PRINCESS DIARIES 2/STEPFORD WIVES
PREMIERE THEATRE	THE NOTEBOOK

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAT (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-7	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-8	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-12	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-14	JANDARA
CINEMA-15	ALIEN VS PREDATOR

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	VILLAGE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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Gasoline, diesel, kerosene prices up anew

By Abigail L. Ho

NEW oil players Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Flying V raised the pump prices of their gasoline by 30-40 centavos a liter, diesel by 45-50 centavos a liter and kerosene by 45 centavos a liter at 12:01 a.m.

At noon today, Seaoil Petroleum Corp. is also raising the price of its gasoline by 30 centavos and its diesel and kerosene by 45 centavos a liter.

Eastern Petroleum's gasoline was priced 30 centavos higher and its diesel and kerosene by 45 centavos more a liter. Flying V implemented a higher price adjustment of 40 centavos a liter for gasoline and 50 centavos a liter for diesel.

The oil firms implemented the increases to recover the higher costs triggered by the spike in world oil prices more than a week ago.

Eastern Petroleum chair Fernando Martinez said in a telephone interview yesterday that new oil players still had an under-recovery for gasoline of about P1.30 a liter and P1.50 a liter for diesel since the start of the year.

Under-recoveries represent world market costs that are not reflected in local pump prices.

Even Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi admitted that under-recoveries for both gasoline and diesel were still quite "significant."

Shell, however, has yet to announce its own price adjustments. The same is the case with market leader Petron Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc., Total (Philippines) Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc.

The oil firms were supposed to raise their prices by as much as 60 centavos a liter, but Energy Secretary Vincent Perez's "tawad-palengke" (wet market-like haggling) with officials of the oil firms led to lower price adjustments.

"World oil prices are still at historic highs. While we understand we cannot arrest the escalating prices, the energy department continues to make an appeal to the oil firms," he said in a statement yesterday.

"We take note of their decision to cut by half the proposed increase."

The benchmark Dubai crude remains at a high $37 a barrel, although the current price is much lower than the peak $41-a-barrel more than a week ago.

Unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products is now averaging $51.65 a barrel, up by more than $5 from the July average of $46.52 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel has also jumped to an average of $51.76 a barrel in August from $46.25 a barrel in July.

Despite the still high world market prices, Perez said in an interview over dzMM yesterday morning that he was appealing to local oil firms not to raise prices in the next two weeks.

But Martinez said most oil firms could only commit not to increase prices in the next 10 days.

"After that, everything will be dependent on what will happen to world oil prices," he said.

Since the beginning of the year, gasoline prices have risen nine times by a total of P5.30-P5.45 a liter, while diesel prices have gone up eight times by P4.25-P4.40 a liter.

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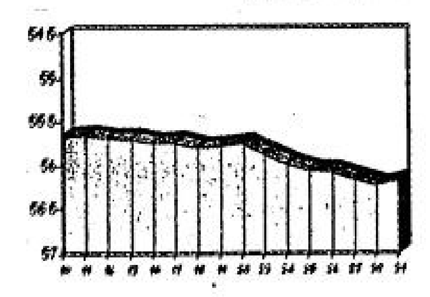

P 56.16 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 31, 2004

¥ 109.86 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 31, 2004

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per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 31, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Shares close flat

SHARE prices closed virtually unchanged yesterday as most investors stayed on the sidelines awaiting fresh leads, dealers said.

Worries that the central bank might hike interest rates to stem inflation, arising from higher oil prices, continued to act as a drag on buying.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 0.58 points to 1,579.83 after moving between 1,573.76 and 1,582.98.

Volume fell to 971.5 million shares worth P382.1 million from 1.08 billion shares worth P400.03 million on Monday.

Losers led gainers 39 to 33, while 48 stocks were unchanged.

The all-shares index fell 2.69 points to 1,010.20 while the commercial-industrial index rose 3.29 to 2,530.34, but property was down 8.33 at 512.35. Mining advanced 10.93 to 1,757.10, but oil retreated 0.02 to 1.63 as banking and financial services gained 3.25 to 459.56. *AFP*

BIR files tax evasion charges vs 14 firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue yesterday filed tax evasion charges against 14 more private enterprises, which allegedly defrauded the cash-strapped government of a combined P290 million.

PARAYNO

In a press briefing at the Manila fiscal office where bulk of the cases were filed, Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the agency's crackdown against erring taxpayers would continue.

"The BIR will track down every perceived tax violator. We will be unforgiving in our resolve until every tax evader is brought to the bar of justice," Parayno warned, noting that there would be more charges to be filed in the coming months.

"Our capability to process and access more data is growing so we're going to detect more (evaders)," Parayno said, noting that demand letters had been sent to erring enterprises, of which 280 had refused to respond.

Charged with tax evasion and perjury at the Manila City hall were: Edsa Printhaus, Sparkling Clean Services, Benjamin Abrigo Enterprises, United Travel Consultants Inc., Classique Home Interior, Philippine Travel Bureau, Triple Excellence, Big AA Corp., Seagull Enterprises and ABM International.

The BIR claimed these 10 companies owed the government some P170.82 billion in unpaid taxes, either by grossly under-declaring or completely not declaring their sales for value-added tax (VAT) purposes.

The discovery of these leakages was made possible by the BIR's automated Relief (Reconciliation of Listing for Enforcement) and TPI (Third Party Information) systems.

Simultaneously charged, although the filings were done in the fiscal offices of other jurisdiction, were: Rural Bank of San Miguel in Batangas City; Marksman Sports in Davao City; Golden Dragon in Makati City, and Seldyn Enterprises in Cabanatuan City.

These four reportedly owed the government a combined P118 million resulting from assessments that had become final. The criminal action filed against these four was one of the remedies for tax collection under the National Internal Revenue Code.

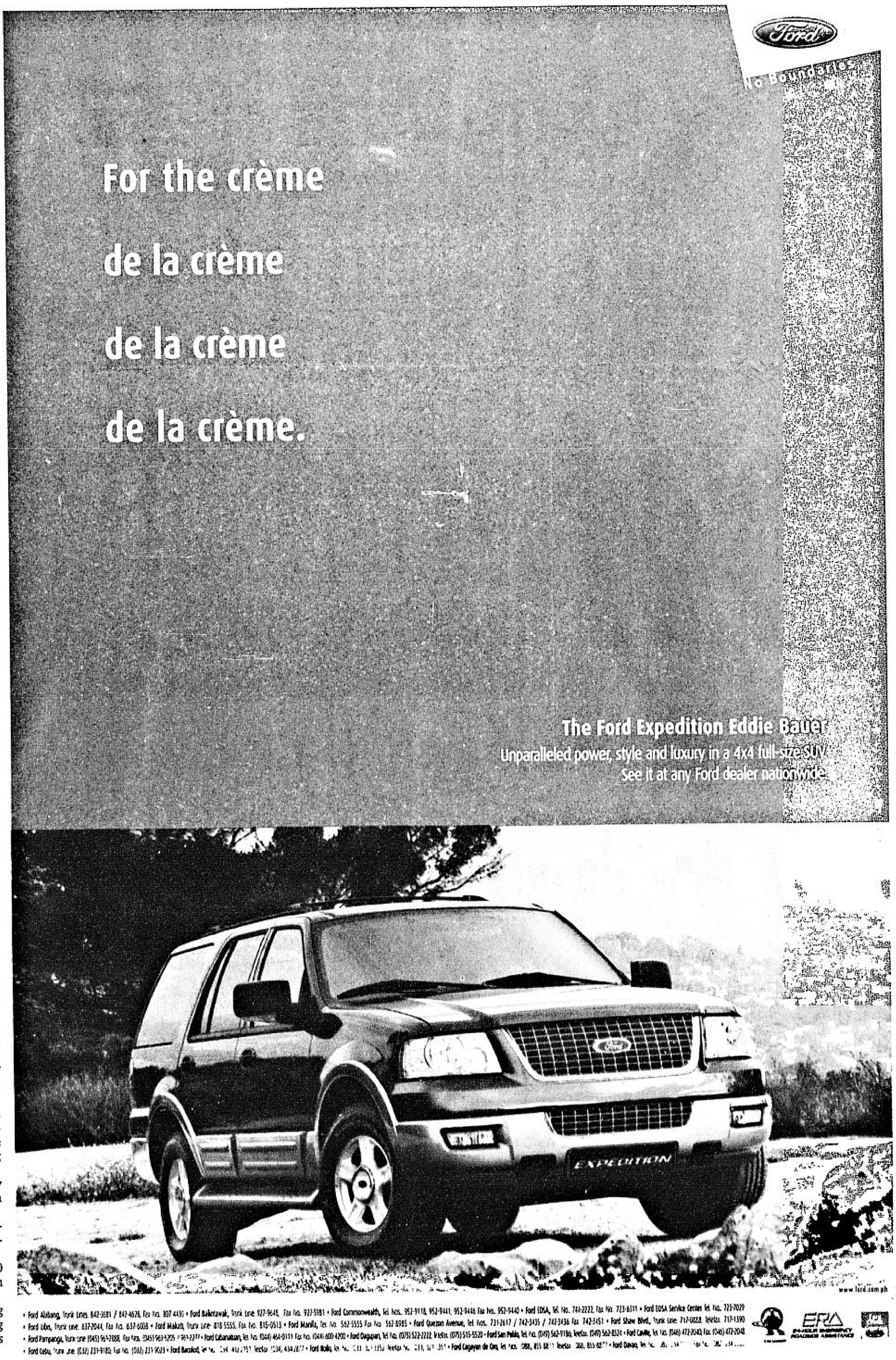
The cases are expected to be brought to the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) under its expanded jurisdiction after the finding of probable cause by the fiscal's office to warrant the filing of the same within the CTA.

If found guilty, these companies face heavy fines and imprisonment for their officials in addition to the closure of their businesses.

Parayno said the cases filed were a showcase of the BIR's "strong will" and "unflinching determination" to run after tax violators.

Only last Aug. 9, the BIR likewise filed 10 criminal cases against nine companies with the fiscal's office in Quezon City.

At present, he said the BIR was readying charges against other erring taxpayers doing business in various parts of the country, such as in Valenzuela, San Pablo City and Cebu City.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BIR offers compromise to settle row with banks over back taxes

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is proposing a compromise to settle the dispute between the Bureau of Internal Revenue and banks over some P31 billion worth of back taxes on the latter's foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs) and offshore banking units (OBUs).

The proposal was aimed at avoiding a legal tussle between the BIR and the banks.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. told reporters yesterday that a new order was now being drafted to resolve the conflict between the BIR and the banks over the inadvertent loss of the tax exempt status of FCDUs and OBUs and the issue of back taxes.

Under the proposal, banks will be asked to pay only the principal amount of the uncollected gross receipt, value added and documentary stamp taxes from 1997, when the tax-exempt status of the FCDUs and OBUs was supposedly removed by the comprehensive tax reform program, until early this year, when the tax breaks were restored.

The proposal will bring down to P11 billion from the P31 billion the back taxes being collected by the BIR from the banks.

The original amount demanded by the BIR was based on an earlier assessment for the period 1997 to April this year, when President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 9294 that restored the tax exemption of FCDUs and OBUs.

Parayno explained that of the original amount demanded, P22 billion represented the basic obligation, of which 50 percent was profit remittance tax.

The balance, he said, represented interests and surcharges.

Under the middle ground solution, Parayno said the BIR would waive the interests and surcharges and take out from the computation P11 billion in taxes on branch profit remittances.

"That has to be settled in another way. There has to be proof that there were really remittances," Parayno said.

"There is an order now on the table, which we will give to (Finance) Secretary (Juanita) Amatong. Essentially, they (the banks) can avail themselves of a middle ground solution so that we will no longer have to go to court," Parayno said.

Parayno said the middle ground solution had been relayed to the banks but had not been been discussed thoroughly. He said the local banks had a more "liberal" view in settling the tax controversy compared with those of the foreign banks operating in the country.

The controversy stemmed from the imposition of additional taxes on FCDUs and OBUs over and above the 10-percent tax on interest income as a result of a "clerical error" in the Tax Reform Act.

When the CTRP was passed in 1997, legislators overlooked the omission of the phrase "in lieu of," and proceeded to pass a law that reinstated all other taxes that local banks pay, including taxes on income, documentary stamps and profit remittances.

But while legislators admitted that there was no intention to remove such tax exemption, the BIR insisted this was what was stated in the law so the back taxes must be collected.

The banking system's FCDU base effectively serves as a form of secondary reserves for the country. As such, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it had helped stabilize the local financial system during political or economic crises. This base is largely composed of dollar deposits of residents and the overseas Filipino workers.

₱352M worth of projects OKd for BOI incentives

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD of Investments approved last month P352 million worth of projects for registration and incentives.

BOI incentives, as contained in the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987, include a five-year income tax holiday, tax and duty relief on the importation of capital equipment and exemption from wharfage dues and export taxes.

Data from the agency showed that the biggest of the projects approved was NuComm International Philippines Inc.'s P110-million call center at the Ortigas Building along Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City.

Expected to open this month, the call center will initially have 100 seats but the Canadian firm plans to expand it to 750 seats within five years.

NuComm will offer the following services: customer care and billing; inbound and outbound sales; customer technical and service support; data mining and management; customer self-service and e-mail and web chat support.

The next biggest project was a P101.5-million low-cost housing investment in the towns of Carmona and Imus in Cavite.

Real estate developer Property Company of Friends Inc. is building a total of 770 housing units under two housing projects called Kinnari Village and California West Hills.

Each housing unit will have floor areas of 30 square meters to 36 sq.m. on 50- to 56-square-meter lots. The Kinnari units will be sold at P500,000 while the California West units will be priced P515,000 each.

The other projects approved in August were:

- Exporter Celebes Canning Corp.'s P58-million expansion of its tuna canning operation in General Santos City;
- Exporter Philippine Auto Components Inc.'s P35-million project to more than double the capacity of its fuel pump set manufacturing facility;
- Banana exporter Southern Plastics Inc.'s P16.5-million manufacturing plant for plastic packing materials in Davao del Norte;
- Golden Genesis Marine Resources Corp.'s P16-million deep-sea fishing operation in General Santos City; and
- Southern Philippines Coco Charcoal Inc.'s P15-million project on the production of coconut charcoal briquettes for export to Korea.

RP, Thailand preparing standards for ethanol use

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINES and Thailand have forged an agreement to jointly formulate regional fuel standards for the use of agricultural by-product ethanol as a gasoline blend.

Fresh from a meeting with Thailand Energy Minister Prommin Lertsuridej in Bangkok, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said the two countries would be cooperating with each other in developing ethanol as an alternative transport fuel in the region.

"There is an abundance of agricultural products within the Asean that may be used as feed stocks for the production of biofuels such as ethanol," a joint statement of the two energy czars said.

In line with these development efforts, the two countries have agreed to conduct research on the feasibility of ethanol use.

While working on the technical specifications of the fuel blend, the two countries will be exerting a joint effort in calling on car manufacturers doing business in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region to make vehicle engines ethanol fuel-compliant.

In the area of logistics and distribution, industry giant Petron Corp. and Thailand's PTT committed to have "technical collaborations" to come up with standards for the distribution and storage of ethanol fuel.

At the same time, PTT Research and Development Institute will lend some technical expertise to the Department of Energy in testing vehicles that will use ethanol-blended gasoline.

The joint statement said that ethanol fuel development in the Asean region would be pursued in response to Thailand's call to use the biofuel as an alternative fuel for the transport sector.

Lertsuridej made this suggestion during the 22nd Asean Energy Ministers Meeting in Manila last June.

Since 2002, Thailand has been engaged in the development of ethanol as a transport fuel alternative. At present, Thailand is using 5 to 10 percent ethanol blend in its gasoline.

As a fuel alternative, ethanol can be used in three ways: it can be blended with gasoline, be used as a component of reformulated gasoline or be the primary fuel with gasoline as a blend.

Both President Macapagal-Arroyo and Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will be briefed on the new ethanol-related agreements, in preparation for their bilateral meeting in Beijing.

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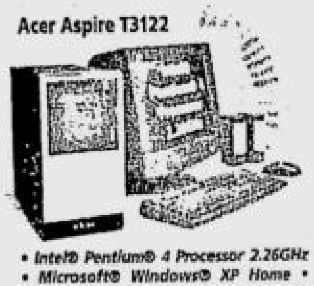

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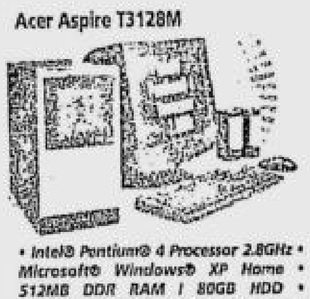

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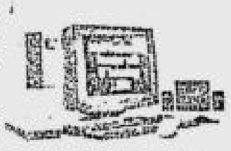

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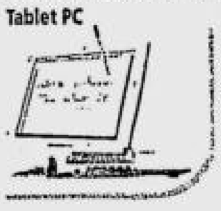

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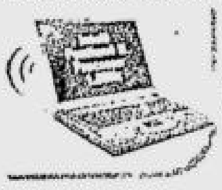

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CebuPac goes Airbus

CEBU Pacific has decided to acquire a dozen Airbus 319 jets to replace its 12 aging all-DC-9 fleet.

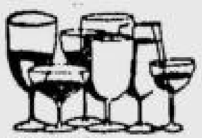
According to the grapevine, Cebu Pacific CEO Lance Gokongwei was in Hong Kong yesterday to sign the $300-million (over P16.8 billion) deal. He is scheduled to announce details of the acquisition this noon.

Cebu Pacific had originally planned to acquire 14 planes for the re-fleeting, and had narrowed down the choice to either the Airbus 319 or Boeing 717-200.

Despite being both designed for the so-called 100-seat market, the Airbus 319's greater range, 6,800 kilometers, as against the 717-200's maximum 3,815-km range, apparently won the day.

In addition to the domestic routes, Cebu Pacific will use the same planes for its regional destinations, including the planned, and much longer, Tokyo and Beijing routes.

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

Smart HK offensive

THE DRENCHING day-long downpour failed to stop thousands of Filipina maids in Hong Kong on Sunday from cheering, stomping, clapping, and dancing their rest day away, as a contingent of hometown movie stars led by Kris Aquino, Robin Padilla, Ogie Alcasid, Pops Fernandez, Vhong Navarro, Kristine Hermosa, Sex Bomb Dancers, and newly minted Sen. Bong Revilla brought fiesta-style fanfare to the Chinese territory.

The whole event was underwritten by Smart to launch its "1528 Smart" mobile virtual network operations venture with Hong Kong's CSL, with Smart even ordering 28,000 umbrellas from China as promotional giveaways for that rainy day.

The sight of thousands of umbrellas swaying to rock and roll hits of Sampaguita being belted out by Pops Fernandez was enough to melt even the heart of seasoned politician Amado Bagatsing, who now sits at the PLDT board.

Bagatsing even joked at how Robin Padilla sounded very much like a politician delivering an impassioned speech extolling the "new heroes," even as Robin was being distracted by the backless yellow gown of his co-emcee and ex-squeeze, Kris Aquino.

Aside from flying in the movie star contingent in business class comfort, Smart also rented the humongous open-air Hong Kong Stadium. The rental fee alone is enough to cover the costs of staging four to five concerts in Manila, according to the grapevine.

In the one-week pre-launch period, 1528 Smart already signed up 15,000 subscribers into the new prepaid service. And, in that Sunday alone, 1528 Smart registered 65,000 text messages sent as the show came to a close early evening, an unheard of record for CSL, whose market had traditionally been the postpaid A and corporate markets.

Hong Kong has about 180,000 Filipina domestic helpers, not counting the musicians and computer personnel and a sprinkling of bankers, traders, journalists, hoteliers, and their families.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno said he expects 50,000 of them to become 1528 Smart subscribers by yearend, lured no doubt by the 50 percent cheaper text rate to the Philippines.

Ayalas in Santolan

THE AYALAS have acquired for an undisclosed amount the Santolan showroom/warehouse of Diamond Motors Corp., where it plans to build a residential condominium complex.

The Ayalas, apparently through its publicly listed Ayala Land, are following the success of Andrew Tan's Megaworld, which already has built a condominium complex along the same corridor, between Camp Crame and the San Juan cemetery.

The site is a short hop to Greenhills and, on the other side, Edsa. Behind and running parallel to Santolan (now known as Boni Serrano Avenue) is Mariposa Street, an old-rich enclave that has now been transformed into a townhouse row.

Heard through the grapevine

SAVE for Planters Development Bank's Jesus Tambunting, the brothers and sisters Tambunting have all signed the documents to an amicable settlement of the family inheritance feud.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY

BCDA pursues ₱46-M infra projects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority yesterday announced it was implementing two infrastructure projects worth P46.8 million in support of a supermall and a high-end residential project in the area.

Officials of the state agency said the projects were meant to ease traffic and ensure the safety of pedestrians and the riding public at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

One project is the P35-million street lighting effort covering a total of 2.24 kilometers of streets along the Market! Market! mall and Serendra residential complex.

Officials said the project would ensure safe travel amid an expected increase of traffic with the opening of the mall and housing complex.

The other project is the P11.8-million widening of the Sampaguita Bridge to accommodate increased volume of vehicles going to and from C5 Road and the Bonifacio Global City.

The 50-meter bridge is located near the south side of Market! Market! and is a major access point for vehicles bound for the Bonifacio Global City and C5.

The second project will also fund the covering of sidewalks leading to and from the mall.

The officials said the bridge improvement and the street lighting projects were expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Both Market! Market! and Serendra are joint-venture projects of BCDA and Ayala Land Inc.

Described as a super-regional shopping center, Market!Market! would have five levels of shopping spread over a gross floor area of 150,000 square meters.

The mall is expected to open this month and would offer a wide array of retail and specialty stores complemented by fast food outlets, a food court, restaurants, seven cinemas, bars/cafes and amusement centers.

On the other hand, Serendra is an 11.6-hectare mixed-use residential complex comprised of several low and mid-rise towers offering country club amenities for sports and recreational activities.

In the next 25 years, BCDA expects to earn some P26.4 billion from Market! Market! and P11 billion from Serendra.

Veterans Bank OKs ₱300-M CAP loan

PRE-NEED leader College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. has secured a loan from the Philippine Veterans Bank.

Emerging from a meeting with Securities and Exchange Commission officials, CAP director Robert John Sobrepeña Jr. said the bank approved its application for a P300-million loan.

The company has drawn P25 million from the credit facility, Sobrepeña said.

Of the total loan, P200 million is secured with collateral, while the credit facility will be used to pay maturing plans, deposit funds to comply with requirements of the SEC for application of additional securities and fund operational activities.

"These (credit) lines are being used as a bridge for interim financing," Sobrepeña said.

Elizabeth Sanchez

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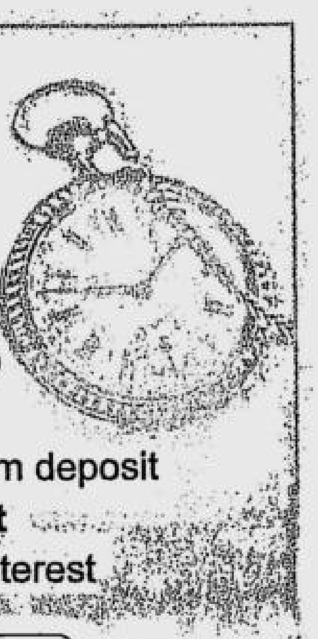

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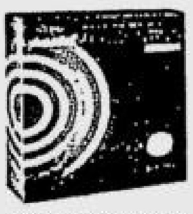

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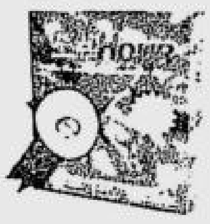

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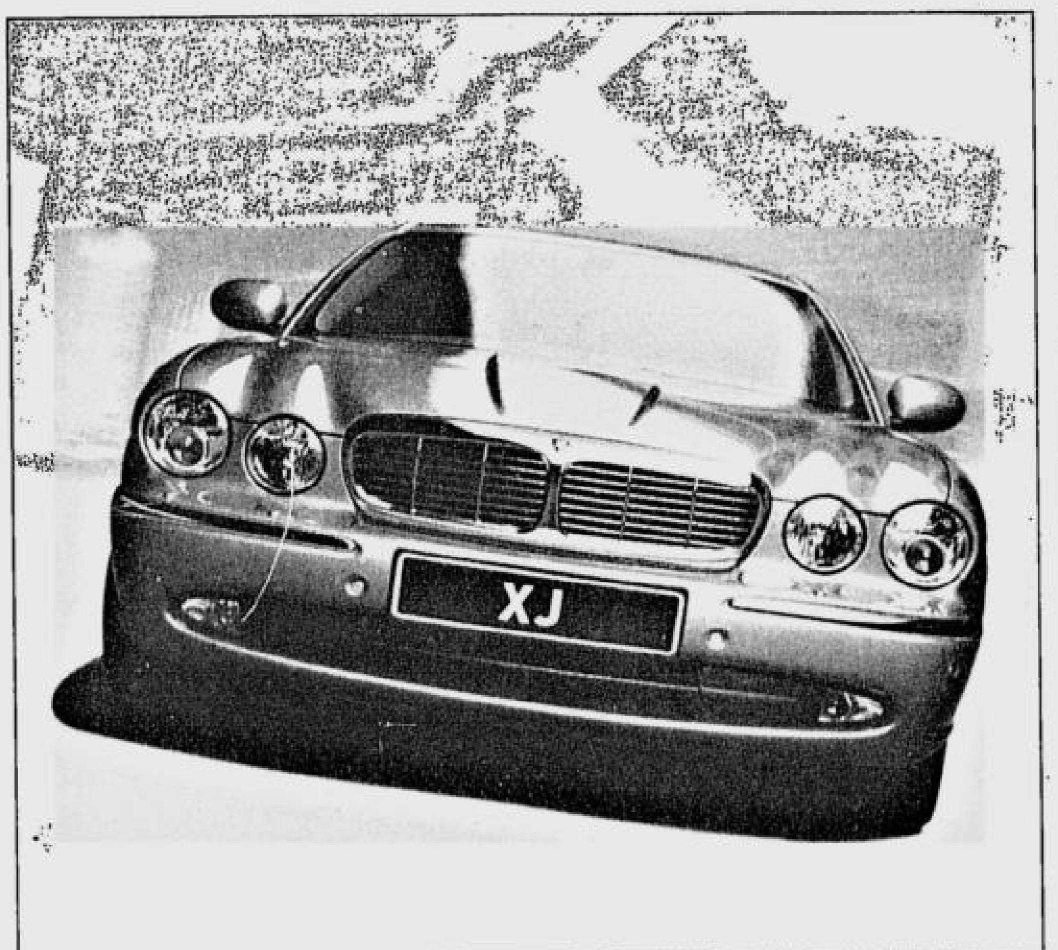

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 31, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	16.75	16.75	79,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41.5	233,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	42	41.5	42	112,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	110,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25	25.5	24.75	25	189,000
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	2,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	22	22	21.75	21.75	55,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	165	173	165	165	280
Manulife Financial Corp.	2250	2250	2250	2250	190
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.36	1.38	379,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	104	104	104	104	500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1530	1530	1505	1505	6,690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20	18,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	120,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	870	880	865	875	13,140
Ipeople Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.42	180,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.034	0.036	1,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	250,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	35,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.48	2.5	10,543,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.205	0.23	0.2	0.23	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1260	1265	1260	1265	74,690
Ivantage Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	2,080,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	24,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	47,500
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	22	21	21.25	1,452,500
Petron Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.6	1,461,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	2,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.35	2,003,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	330,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	2,330,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.14	1,389,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25	415,000
RFM Corp.	0.77	0.84	0.77	0.84	400,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	88,800
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	69.5	69	69	39,600
Universal Robina Corp.	8.1	8.6	8.1	8.5	1,149,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	290,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	933,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	353,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.028	0.025	0.026	29,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.4	1.46	1.38	1.46	2,564,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	25,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	80,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	26	26	25	25.5	112,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	670,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	1,060,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.29	8,970,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.085	0.065	0.08	9,800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.08	1.94	2.04	17,821,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.033	4,000,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24.5	24	24.25	258,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	9,500,000
Ionics Inc.	2.34	2.36	2.1	2.22	2,585,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.82	1.74	1.82	23,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.3	1.34	77,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	600,000
Medco Holdings	0.2	0.26	0.2	0.26	340,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	1,449,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.34	34,020,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.14	0.155	0.135	0.135	7,900,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.4	0.4	1,650,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	240,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.145	1,790,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.2	0.23	0.19	0.19	4,360,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.24	0.22	0.235	1,970,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	3,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.76	1.78	3,265,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.1	1.02	1.1	1,153,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.075	0.0675	0.0675	14,300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.68	0.71	9,780,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	3.1	4	3.1	4	13,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.59	0.59	180,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	600,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	132,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	45,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	1,501,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	2,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	5,870,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.22	2.2	2.22	69,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.185	0.175	0.175	840,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	28,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	780,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	199,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	2,230,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	35,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.9	3	2.9	3	10,000
Benguet Corp. A	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	2,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	172,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	152,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	246,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	890,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	18,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	58,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Pacifica	0.0085	0.009	0.008	0.008	19,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.85	76,000

DISCLOSURES

GINEBRA San Miguel Inc., the hard liquor unit of San Miguel Corp., recorded in July a net income of P135 million—up 23 percent from July last year's P110 million—on higher domestic demand and healthy exports. Total revenue in July hit P1.085 billion from P903 million a year earlier.

* * *

SUSAN Tan, a director of **Solid Group Inc. (SGI)**, sold 55.9 million shares of stock in SGI to Jason Lim, also an SGI director at the Philippine Stock Exchange on Aug. 30, 2004 at the following amounts: P0.37 per share: 30.9 million shares; and P0.45 per share: 25 million shares.

* * *

FIL-ESTATE Corp.'s corporate information officer Ferdinand Santos confirmed that Fil-Estate recently came out of trading suspension after the submission of its 2003 audited accounts, which indicated a net income of approximately P121.3 million, from net losses of P418.4 million in 2002 and 2001 respectively.

* * *

A TOTAL of 6,265 common shares have been fully paid for under PLDT's executive stock option plan (Esop). Listing of the 6,265 common shares is set on Aug. 31. The PSE approved on June 14, 2000 PLDT's application to list additional 1,289,745 common shares, with a par value of P5 per share, to cover the Esop, at an exercise of P814 per share.

* * *

ANSCOR Consolidated Corp. (ACC), a 100-percent owned subsidiary of A. Soriano Corp., bought 130,000 shares of Anscor. As of Aug. 30, 2004, the total number of Anscor shares owned by ACC is 707.48 million.

* * *

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Corp. reported the final list of candidates for independent director for 2004- 2005: Benito Araneta, 61, director and board chair of Philcomsat for five years, and Roberto Abad, 69, executive vice president of Metropolitan Insurance Co. Inc. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 31, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.829050	1.000000	56.2160
Japan	Yen	0.007545	0.009101	0.5116
United Kingdom	Pound	1.489388	1.796500	100.9920
Hong Kong	Dollar	0 106297	0.128215	7.2077
Switzerland	Franc	0.648354	0.782044	43.9634
Canada	Dollar	0.628926	0.758610	42.6460
Singapore	Dollar	0.483580	0.583294	32.7905
Australia	Dollar	0.579755	0.699301	39.3119
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.199188	2.652661	149.1220
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221074	0.266660	14.9906
Brunei	Dollar	0.482174	0.581598	32.6951
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000107	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019910	0.024015	1.3500
UAE	Dirham	0.225720	0.272264	15.3056
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.206200	67.8077
Argentina	Peso	0.275890	0.332779	18.7075
Brazil	Real	0.281750	0.339847	19.1048
Denmark	Kroner	0.134446	0.162169	9.1165
India	Rupee	0.017903	0.021594	1.2139
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218200	0.263193	14.7957
Mexico	New Peso	0.072723	0.087719	4.9312
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539535	0.650787	36.5846
Norway	Kroner	0.119328	0.143933	8.0913
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014135	0.017050	0.9585
South Africa	Rand	0.124295	0.149925	8.4282
Korea	Won	0.000720	0.000868	0.0488
Sweden	Kroner	0.109626	0.132231	7.4335
Syria	Pound	0.016095	0.019414	1.0914
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024478	0.029525	1.6598
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000433	0.000522	0.0293

Liberalization failed, MVP says

By Clarissa S. Batino

TELECOMMUNICATIONS executive Manuel V. Pangilinan has urged the government to reconsider its liberalization stance in favor of a more regulated yet efficient economy.

Pangilinan, one of the more successful and prominent Filipino managers in the region, said that only foreign banks and foreign suppliers made money out of the liberalization of the '90s.

"I think they should debunk this deregulation policy as a general policy of the government. It doesn't make sense. Deregulation is the mantra of the "90s. Did it work? Absolutely not," Pangilinan told reporters during a recent briefing in Hong Kong.

Pangilinan referred specifically to the deregulation of the telecommunications industry in the early 1990s through the service area scheme.

Under this policy, new telecommunications players were allowed to engage in the lucrative mobile phone business on condition that they would put up a basic phone service in their assigned service areas, mostly in the provinces.

"Whom did we make happy with this deregulation in telecommunications? The foreign suppliers and the foreign banks in the name of the service of the consumers. Do we have fixed lines all over the country that works?" Pangilinan said.

The deregulation of the sector only left many telecommunications firms with huge debts and hardly any profit.

Asked whether having a managed economy is better, Pangilinan said yes.

"Is Singapore a free market? Is Hong Kong a free market? It is better to manage than not manage it. If you are not managing it, it ain't working. Look at where we are," he said.

Pangilinan is managing director and chief executive officer of First Pacific Co. Ltd and chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Smart Communications Inc.

PLDT is 24 percent owned by First Pacific, an Indonesian company that Pangilinan helped establish during the early '80s, which had grown into a conglomerate with consolidated assets of $1.45 billion as of end-2003.

Gov't retains control of Philcomsat board

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GOVERNMENT, the group led by former Ambassador to Spain Manuel Nieto Jr., and independent directors have retained control of the board of Philcomsat Holdings Corp.

PHC stockholders pushed through with the annual meeting and election of the board members yesterday despite the legal challenge posed by the rival group led by lawyer and shareholder Victor Africa.

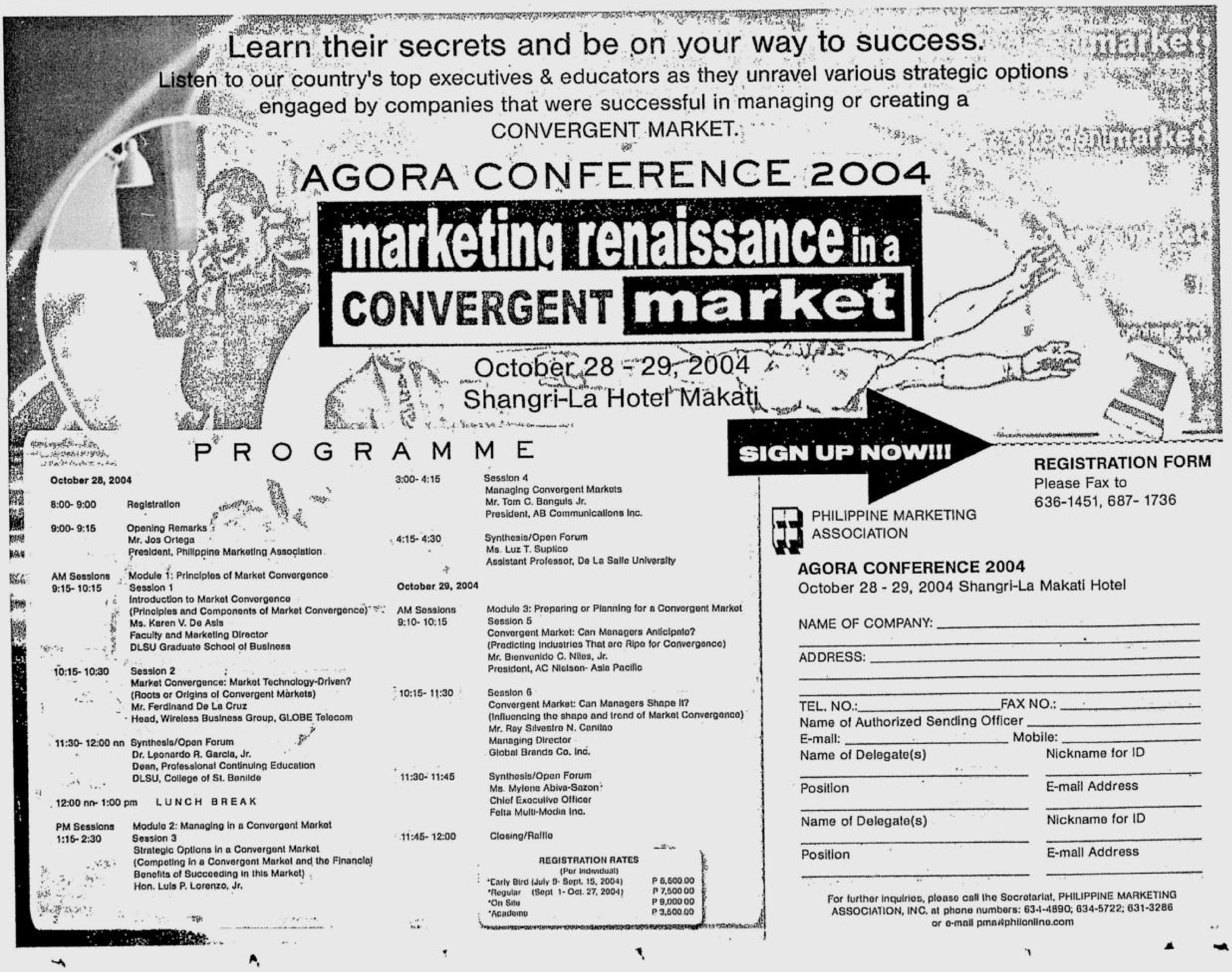
Africa claimed to hold proxies representing 80 percent of PHC and said that the board had no authority to hold the meeting.

The meeting, however, pushed through with incumbent board chair, Benito V. Araneta of Araneta Properties, leading the meeting after PHC president, Manuel Nieto Jr., abstained from presiding because of a temporary restraining order issued yesterday by the Court of Appeals.

Elected to the board were representatives of the Nieto group and the Presidential Commission on Good Government, which has a 40 percent stake in Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp., the parent company of Philcomsat.

Araneta was named chair and independent director, Nieto will continue as president and chief executive officer.

Other directors are Oliverio Laperal, Manuel Andal, Julio Jalandoni, Enrique Locsin, Philip Brodett, Luis Lokin, Roberto San Jose, Prudencio Somera and Roberto Abad.



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marketing renaissance in a CONVERGENT market
October 28 - 29, 2004
Shangri-La Hotel Makati

PROGRAMME

October 28, 2004
8:00- 9:00 Registration
9:00- 9:15 Opening Remarks
Mr. Jos Ortega
President, Philippine Marketing Association
AM Sessions 9:15- 10:15 Module 1: Principles of Market Convergence
Session 1
Introduction to Market Convergence
(Principles and Components of Market Convergence)
Ms. Karen V. De Asis
Faculty and Marketing Director
DLSU Graduate School of Business
10:15- 10:30 Session 2
Market Convergence: Market Technology-Driven?
(Roots or Origins of Convergent Markets)
Mr. Ferdinand De La Cruz
Head, Wireless Business Group, GLOBE Telecom
11:30- 12:00 nn Synthesis/Open Forum
Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia, Jr.
Dean, Professional Continuing Education
DLSU, College of St. Benilde
12:00 nn- 1:00 pm LUNCH BREAK
PM Sessions 1:15- 2:30 Module 2: Managing in a Convergent Market
Session 3
Strategic Options in a Convergent Market
(Competing in a Convergent Market and the Financial Benefits of Succeeding in this Market)
Hon. Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr.
3:00- 4:15 Session 4
Managing Convergent Markets
Mr. Tom C. Banguis Jr.
President, AB Communications Inc.
4:15- 4:30 Synthesis/Open Forum
Ms. Luz T. Suplico
Assistant Professor, De La Salle University

October 29, 2004
AM Sessions 9:10- 10:15 Module 3: Preparing or Planning for a Convergent Market
Session 5
Convergent Market: Can Managers Anticipate?
(Predicting Industries That are Ripe for Convergence)
Mr. Bienvenido C. Niles, Jr.
President, AC Nielsen- Asia Pacific
10:15- 11:30 Session 6
Convergent Market: Can Managers Shape It?
(Influencing the shape and trend of Market Convergence)
Mr. Ray Silvestre N. Canilao
Managing Director
Global Brands Co. Inc.
11:30- 11:45 Synthesis/Open Forum
Ms. Mylene Abiva-Sazon
Chief Executive Officer
Felta Multi-Media Inc.
11:45- 12:00 Closing/Raffle

REGISTRATION RATES
(Per individual)
*Early Bird (July 9- Sept. 15, 2004) P 6,500.00
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For further inquiries, please call the Secretariat, PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC. at phone numbers: 634-4890; 634-5722; 631-3286 or e-mail pma@philonline.com

AFEX 2004

ASIAFOOD Expo 2004

13th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology

All about food and more

For four days, the World Trade Center will be transformed into the largest market of food products, machineries, technologies and industries when 448 participants gather in the 13th AsiaFood Expo 2004

Have you taken your breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snacks-in-between? The next time you eat and savor the food, take into consideration the processes, the history, the equipment, the utensils, the businesses and industries that made the delight of eating possible.

AsiaFood Expo 2004 is the 13th International Exposition on food processing, packaging and handling machinery, equipment and technology that will open today until Sept. 4.

The largest one-stop shop for food and beverage is a gathering of 448 participants who will showcase of the most comprehensive and complete products, materials, machineries and technologies on food and beverage.

At the Asia Food Expo, big and small entrepreneurs, or even startups will be able to source materials for upgrade of their businesses. Even employees or OFWs who dream of having their own business will also get ideas on what business to start, according to Josephine Miranda, marketing manager of Trade Information Marketing and Exhibitions, the organizer of Asia Food Expo.

"Not only can people find important products for the food business and business opportunities but also seminars, consultations and advice by technical people—everything about the business of food," said Miranda.

"Asiafood is an important and anticipated event and since we've started holding the event, it has generated more businesses."

An event to look forward to is the first AsiaFood Expo 2004 Culinary Excellence all Chocolate Competition featuring the chocolate cake baking competition, praline competition, and without added sugar truffles competition.

The competition will further promote the quality of products and services of the food and beverage sector by displaying various talents of industry practitioners and showcasing the competitive quality of products that is being used in the competition.

The competition is open to culinary professionals, pastry chefs, bakers, chocolate enthusiasts and dietitians from various hotels, restaurants and baking sectors. The first prize winners of the three competitions will receive a free three-day chocolate course at Callebaut School in Singapore. Callebaut is one of the leading cocoa & chocolate partner worldwide.

Meanwhile, the 1st International Conference on Halal Food and Non-Food Products in the country will coincide with AsiaFood Expo. The conference will have a group pavilion composed of suppliers, distributors and manufacturers of Halal-certified food products in cooperation with the Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA), a government agency directly under the Office of the President of the Philippines.

The Trade Information Marketing and Exhibitions Inc, organizer of AsiaFood Expo forged a Memorandum of Agreement with OMA for its participation in the Halal Pavilion.

The agreement aims to bring into the country the Halal-certified food and beverage products, which the Industry needs in order to be more competitive. It also aims to establish a forum for promoting the local industry and gather insights on the industry of the participating countries.

For coffee enthusiasts, Beyond the Cup is an affair to participate in. It is a thorough course on the basics of coffee awareness which will be conducted for the first time in the country by Marco Caudini, founder and director of the coffee academy. The training discusses the origins of coffee, harvesting, roasting, blending, cupping and Barista training. This effective approach has created the Caffe Mauro Coffee Academy.

The lecture will be a condensed version of the main course which is being offered at the Coffee Academy. The three-hour lecture will discuss coffee origins, roasting and blending practices. It will also provide an overview of the Italian coffee culture, the status and prospects and its influence to the global coffee culture.

Last year's AsiaFood Expo has displayed 24 home-grown companies and 380 foreign groups that sum up to 620 exhibitor companies from 35 countries worldwide. AFEX was able to gather 27,906 registered local and international trade buyers and visitors and is expecting even more participants this year.

Asia Food Expo will be held along with three equally important events: Food & Drinks Asia 2004, the 8th International Exposition on Specialty Foods, Delicatessen, Confectionery, Beverages, Beers, Wines and Spirits; Food Franchising 2004, the 8th International Food Franchising for Business Systems Exposition; and FoodServ Asia 2004, the 4th International Exposition on Foodservice, Catering Systems, Supplies, Equipment and Technology.

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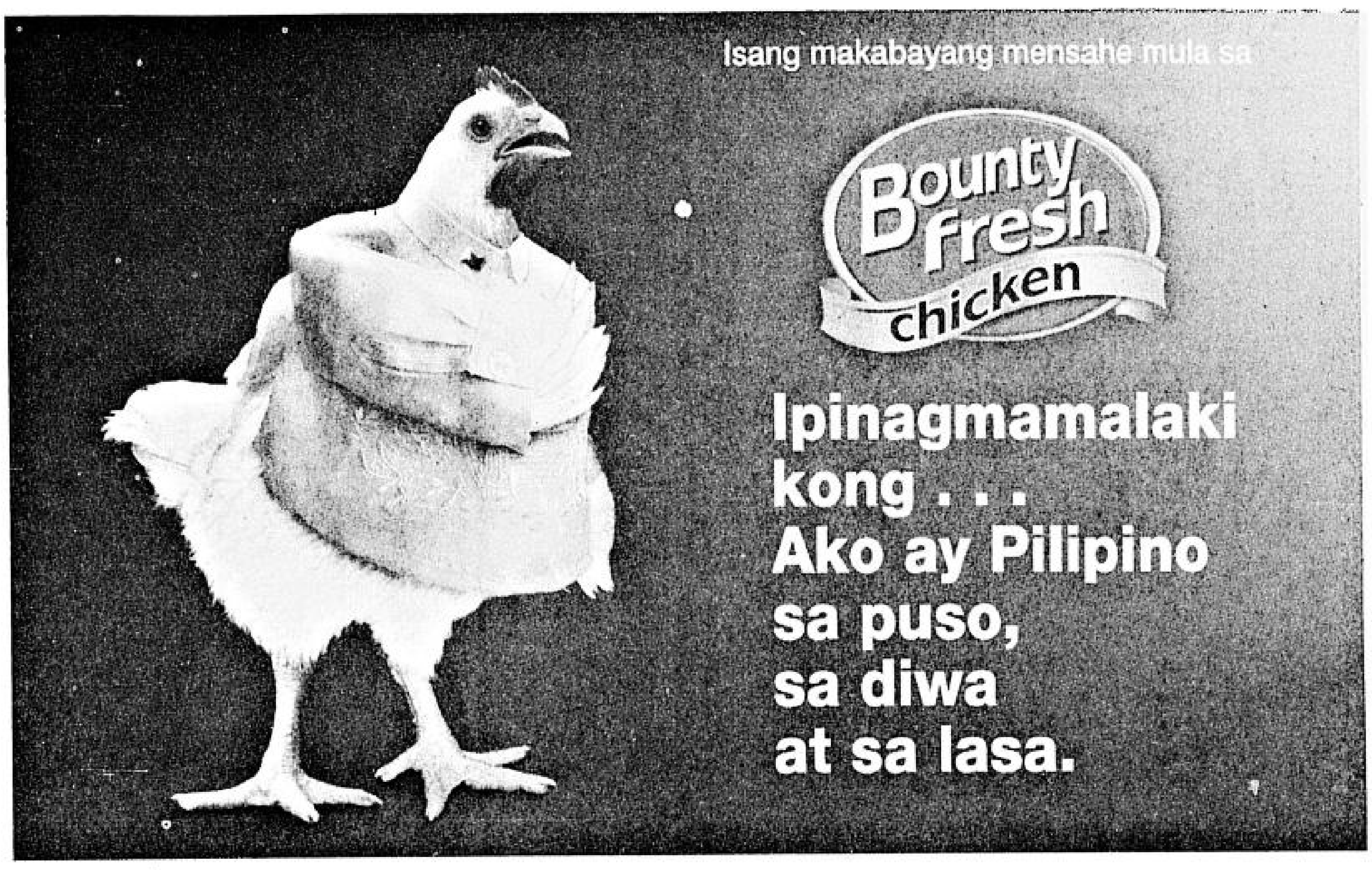
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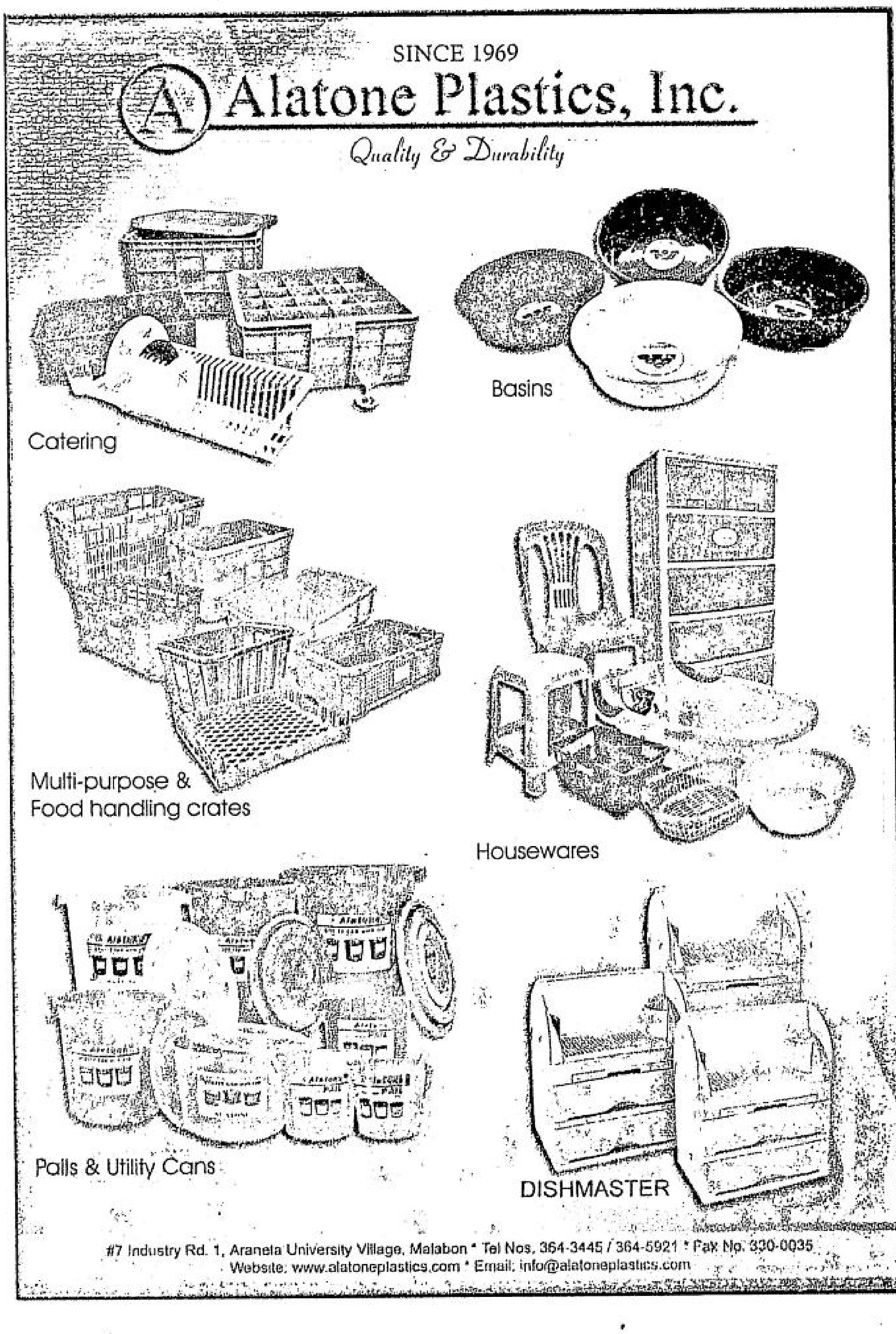
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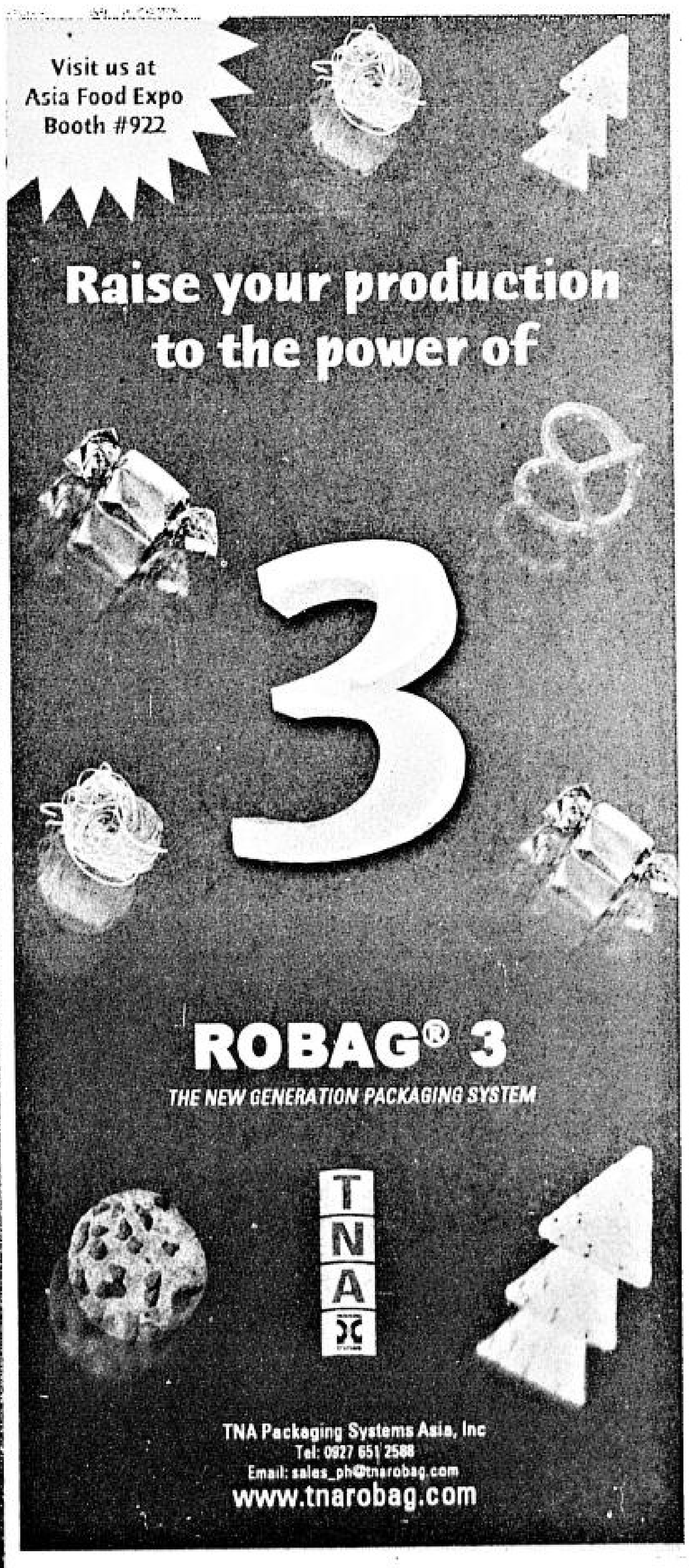
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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

The right dandruff shampoo?

DANDRUFF is known by many as white, oily flakes caused by fungal invasion of the scalp. People afflicted with it are often constrained not to wear dark-colored clothing to avoid detection.

Yet, contrary to popular belief, skin shedding is a natural phenomenon that is experienced by everyone. Shedding of scalp skin is a normal skin renewal process. It only becomes a problem when the shedding becomes too rapid as to cause excessive flaking and itchiness.

No one can really tell just what triggers "excessive" dandruff. A variety of factors-from fungus to oily skin to hormone production-may contribute to this undue shedding of skin in the scalp area. Even stress and tension can cause dandruff.

The solution is mainly to remove dandruff faster than it is produced. Frequent use of shampoo is the simplest and most affordable treatment for mild cases of dandruff. All shampoos have detergent action that can be more effective when used more often.

In more serious cases, however, special anti-dandruff shampoos provide longer-lasting effects than ordinary shampoo. Most of the specially formulated shampoos use ketoconazole as active ingredient. Although ketoconazole-based shampoos are effective in controlling dandruff, there is a dark-and often overlooked-side to it. Several studies point out that ketoconazole has properties that can make the hair dry, brittle, and unhealthy in the long run.

For this reason, many people look for alternative anti-dandruff agents that are just as effective but with less adverse effects.

Dr. Kwan Hyun Cho of the Seoul National University investigated the efficacy of ciclopirox olamine, an anti-fungal agent, and compared it to ketoconazole in a clinical study that involved 64 individuals experiencing mild to moderate dandruff. While the study revealed that both agents-ciclopirox olamine and ketoconazole-resulted in a progressive and rapid decline in dandruff severity, it was observed that ciclopirox olamine has a higher cosmetic acceptability than ketoconazole.

High cosmetic acceptability means that ciclopirox olamine does not cause hair dryness, unpleasant odor, discomfort and other adverse effects. Recurrence of dandruff during post treatment period was also prevented by ciclopirox olamine.

In addition, previous studies have shown that ciclopirox olamine is also effective against other fungal infections such as athlete's foot, ringworm, and jock itch.

Ciclopirox olamine shampoo is manufactured by Stiefel Philippines Inc under the brand name Stieprox.

To know more about dandruff and Stieprox, visit your dermatologist or call the Stiefel Philippines Inc hotline at 1-800-10-STIEFEL (provincial) and 635-7346 (Metro Manila, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. E-mail actionaid.ph@stiefel.com.

42 Years of Protecting the Welfare of the Filipino Consumer
15TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONSUMERS AWARDS
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OUTSTANDING KARNE NORTE MAKER

Foodsphere Inc, manufacturer of CDO Karne Norte, was cited most outstanding Karne Norte manufacturer by the Consumers Union of the Philippines at the 15th annual national consumers awards (Anca) held Aug. 27 at the Le Pavillon in Pasay City. On hand to receive the citation from the CUP awards committee led by lawyer Quirino Marquinez were company officials Marites Escarcha, assistant general manager; Bong Cendana, national sales manager; Jonathan Bendicion, marketing manager; Rene Hernandez, production manager and Sharon Joy Punzalan, brand manager.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of the Judicial Reform Support Project (JRSP) and intends to apply a portion of the loan to eligible payments under this Contract.

One of the initiatives identified in the reform program is the Judicial Reform Support Project (JRSP), which is being financed by the World Bank (WB). This particular initiative seeks to 1) improve case adjudication and access to justice; 2) enhance the integrity infrastructure of the Court; and 3) strengthen the capacity of the Supreme Court to manage the Judiciary. The project will be implemented for a six (6) year period, with loan effectiveness date commencing in December 2003 and closing in December 2009.

The JRSP involves the detailed design and implementation of various ICT application systems that will be seamlessly integrated as well as synchronized with ICT application systems being developed or to be developed under other judicial reform initiatives/projects.

The Supreme Court of the Philippines now invites consultancy firms to undertake **Consultancy Services for the Preparation of the Judiciary-wide Information and Communication (ICT) Systems Development and Integration Framework.**

For this assignment, Consultants are expected to define an over-all enterprise-wide framework or Information System Architecture and the associated Technology Architecture for the entire information network required for the Judiciary. Aside from formulating a comprehensive Enterprise Information Systems Plan, the Consultants are also expected to develop a procurement plan, Bid Documents using World Bank Standard Bidding Documents and assist in the procurement of the necessary infrastructure, information systems and implementation services. In addition, the consultants are expected to carry out an IT Capacity assessment of the Judiciary and to develop a capacity building plan to support the implementation and adoption of these information systems.

Interested firms must have the following qualifications and must possess expertise and experience in the following areas:

(i) At least 5 years experience in the planning, design, development and implementation of Enterprise Information Systems of comparable scale and scope in similarly complex country environments like the Philippines.

(ii) Informatics management and planning, with extensive prior experience in developing strategic systems integration solutions for Courts and other Judicial organizations in, but not necessarily limited to the following functional business areas:

- Case Management
- Court Records Management
- Capital Budgeting
- Financial Management
- Revenue Collection and Reporting
- Physical Assets Management
- Judicial Performance
- Personnel/HR Management

(iii) Development and implementation of ICT-related Human Resource Development Programs for organizations of comparable scope and scale.

(iv) Procurement of goods, works and services using procedures for World Bank financed projects.

Interested firms are required to submit not later than 2:00 P.M. on or before the 14th day following the date of the first publication on 25 August 2004 one (1) original and nine (9) copies of their Letter of Intent, Company Profile and relevant references to **Justice Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr.**, Court Administrator and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for the JRSP, c/o **Engr. Nestor U. Venturillo**, Head, BAC-JRSP Secretariat, 6th Floor, Centennial Building, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila.

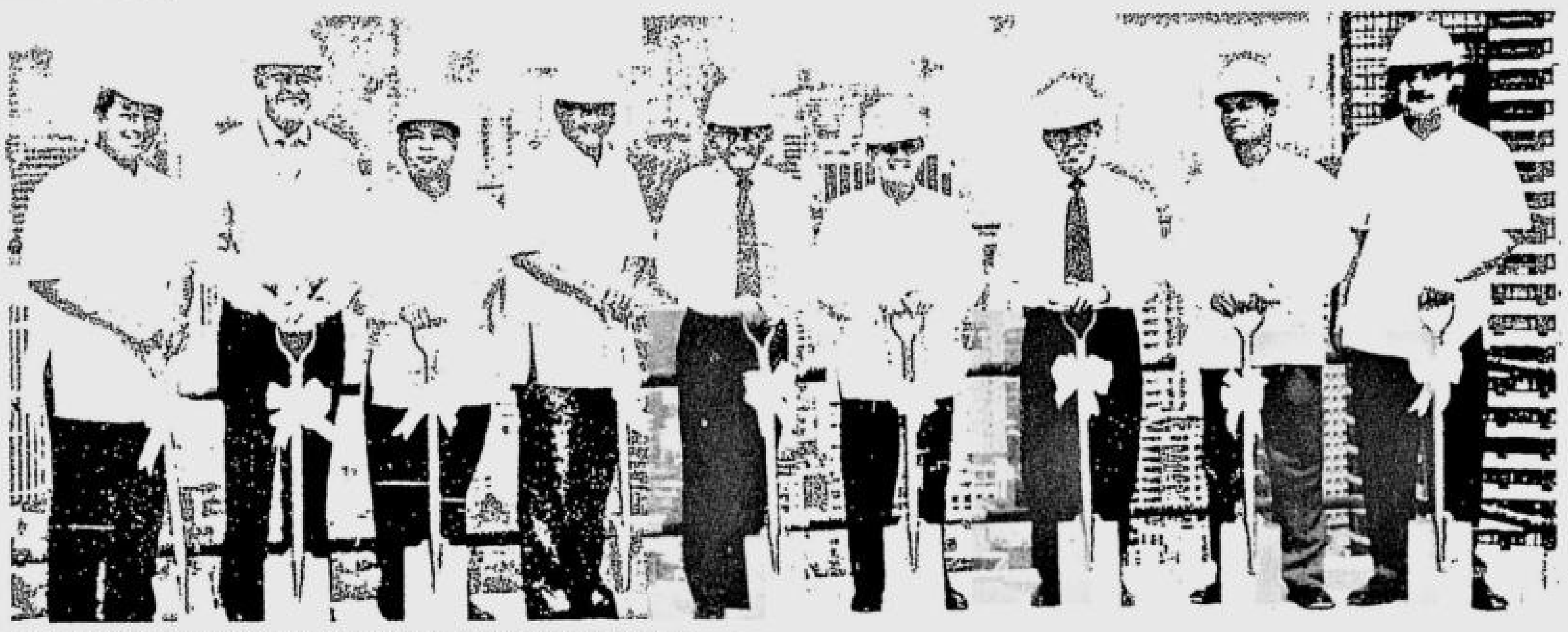
The Consultant firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines on the Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002).

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers, waive any defect or informality therein and accept the offer which it deems most advantageous to the Court.

23 August, 2004.

(Sgd.) **JUSTICE PRESBITERO J. VELASCO, JR.**
Court Administrator and
Chairman JRSP-Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Aug. 25 & Sept. 1, 2004)



ROCKWELL LAND TOPS OFF THE MANANSALA

Rockwell Land recently marked the structural completion of The Manansala three months ahead of schedule. Lopez Group of Companies chair Oscar M. Lopez and Rockwell Land CEO Tong Padilla led the topping-off rites on The Manansala's 41st floor. Present were Summa Kumagai Inc president and CEO Albert Altura, Summa Kumagai Inc project director John Nelson, and several executives of general contractor SKI-Balfour JV, quantity surveyors Davis Langdon & Seah Philippines, and window and glazing subcontractor Loxon Wandsset. Also present were a number of unit owners.

Bits & Clips

Quest for school excellence

THE ASIAN Association of School Human Resource Management and Development (HRMD) Practitioners Inc (AASHPI) invites all school HR practitioners, school administrators, finance officers, principals, presidents and CEOs to its 5th annual convention to be held at the Tagaytay International Convention Center, Tagaytay City on Sept. 2 and 3. The convention's theme is aptly titled "Quest for Excellence in Institutional Performance Through its Human Resources". AASHPI is committed to excellence in people management and development, organizational productivity, technological, and career systems advancement, and institutional culture building. For more details, call Jocelyn/Badette at 820-8709, 820-8702/03 local 106, or Jesiel at 820-8714.

French chef demos

CHEF Jean-Marc Bernelin, technical consultant of Barry Callebaut Asia Pacific (S) Pte Ltd, will demonstrate the latest on "Chocolate Cake Baking; Praline and Without Added Sugar Truffles" during the 1st AsiaFood Expo Culinary Excellence All-Chocolate Competition from Sept. 1 to 3 at the World Trade Center. Bernelin took up professional pastry courses at the Chamber of Commerce in Paris, and worked as an apprentice with Ferrandi. He was selected the best apprentice of France in 1994 and won the grand prize in the Arpagon competition junior category. The three all-chocolate competitions will take first prize winners to Callebaut in Singapore to participate in a 3-day chocolate course for free.

More laureates

ANDRE Peter Cabuay Estanislao, a valedictorian graduate of BF Manresa School in 2000, a Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Leadership awardee, a full scholar and an International Baccalaureate graduate of Pearson College in Victoria, Canada, and now a full scholar of Middlebury College in Vermont, has been selected for the National Dean's List, one of the highest academic honors bestowed on US college students, and which only half of 1 percent of all US college students have the privilege of being a member of. Andre is majoring in International Studies, and being one of the top students in Middlebury, was awarded a one-year full scholarship grant for his junior year in Athens and France. He returns to the United States this September for his senior year. Andre is the youngest son of Augusto and Patria Estanislao of BF Homes Paranaque.

ESTANISLAO

Agora registration

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association announces the start of the regular registration for the Agora Conference 2004 slated on Oct. 28 and 29 at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati. The 2-day conference with the theme "Marketing Renaissance in a Convergent Market" will focus on the principles and trends in market convergence, which Johannes Jennings defines as a market where disjointed markets converge. Registration rate of P7,500 will be in effect from today until Oct. 27. For those who sign up on the event itself, the on-site rate is P9,000. Meanwhile, members of the academe need only to pay P3,500 for the conference. For more inquiries, call the association secretariat at 634-4890, 634-5722, and 631-3286, or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

Tecniart Cut and Style Show

THE TECNIART Cut and Style Show brings to the Philippines another milestone in fashion, beauty and style. L'Oreal Professionnel is showcasing the latest hairstyling techniques with new formulations by Tecniart. A Tecniart Tour will begin today at 11 a.m. at the second floor of The Podium, and continue throughout the day. Styling stations by top salons in Metro Manila will welcome clients interested in cut and style makeovers. In the tour, guests will answer a personality quiz and consult with the Tecniart Tour guide. The first 50 guests who complete the quiz and the consultation get a free blow dry service at the styling stations. Mall goers get a discount on all Tecniart products every time they present a receipt of P500 in purchases from any Podium store. The Tecniart hair show begins at 7 p.m. Exciting prizes will be raffled off.

PAFCPIC reaches Butuan

THE PHILIPPINE Army Finance Center Producers Integrated Cooperative (PAFCPIC) opens its 15th branch in Butuan City to extend its services to members assigned in Camp Bancasi 2 km away and nearby brigades and battalions of the Philippine Army. The scheduled opening of the 85-sqm office in Libertad, Butuan City is today. PAFCPIC's services include savings and capital build-up and credit (petty cash, emergency, salary, durable consumer goods and income generating project loans). The branch will also facilitate the issuance of ID cards, passbooks, various certificates, and foster direct and constant communication with its members in the area.

KLM FETES TOP AGENTS

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, led by KLM sales manager Joey Laurente, recently held a luncheon at the Peninsula Manila to thank and recognize its top agent producers for 2003 and 2004. Shown (from left) are Joyce Canilao, KLM sales representative, Helen Hao of Pan Pacific Travel Corp, Missy Ungson of BTI Philippines Marsman, Norma Cacho of North Star International Travel Inc, Carol Caparas of King of Travel, Laurente, Gerry De Guzman of Adventure International Tours Inc, Aileen Clemente of Rajah Travel Corp, Marilu Ngo of Sierra Tours; Cecilia de Villa of Argo Travel (Philippines) Inc, Mariecar Han-Magalong of Instone Philippines Inc, Rose Dela Cerna of Argo Travel (Philippines) Inc, Jenny Dayrit of Iasa, Lucille Chabeldin of Thomas Cook (Philippines) Inc, and Joanna Tan, KLM sales representative.

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12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

Mkt. Studio 2Br 2Tb Day/Monthly Tel/Prkg FlexiTerm 8906331

MANILA

MALATE MLA
2BR, 3BR, PNTHSE 3YRS TO PAY NO INT T(0918)9132396

SN ANDRES MANILA BnewTwnhse/3sty/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse/3sty/3br/2-2 1/2tb/ grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

Twnhses nr DLSU - Taft Ave LA42 - 48Sm 1Car P2 5M UP 562-3531 / 0917- 5272166

PASIG

1.6M Nr. C5 0917-9749397

RENT TO OWN / NO DP, TERMS CONDO Near Fort N' Makati w/High Class Amenities 2-4BR P1.8 - P4.4M w/Disc. Anne Cell. 0920-2360929

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P1.5M 5YRS TO PAY No Interest Move-In 9126976

Garden Hts Studio FFrn 1.7M 0917-4196237/0917-5387185

SAN JUAN

P/HSE CONDO 4SALE / RENT ROYALVIEW Nr. G/HILLS 0920RSGHOME • 531-1384

APARTMENT

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CONCRETE 2UNITS APT. BLDG 3BR / Unit on 486 sqm Lot Balusong, Matina, Davao City 6M Contact . Davao Bert 300-8499

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Near Arauullo St 400m² P20T per sqm 7213127 / 5325487

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

LOT

PASIG

Rosario 1500 @3000m² Wide Road Nice Call 645-3731

QUEZON CITY

Xaviervil 360m² @23T/m² 6453731

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CAGBANG OTON ILOILO 6,100m² Call 656-0843

BATANGAS

LIPA CITY PROP 3Has 670/m² nr Carmel Ch. T-550-5530

CAVITE

KAWIT 349m² 286m² 8424213

LAGUNA

CABUYAO
Multi-Land 100 sqm Lots @ P3,000/sqm available on Installment Plan at P5,398. 15 /Mo. Also available 32 sqm lots P3,300/sqm.
For more Info Call Tess at 8160997 or 09179166285

Calamba Laguna Lot & Warehouse w/ wall quarters waterpump electricity Landline: Call Linda 043-3181310 / 0916-3640009

HOT SPRING LOTS
LA 175m² & Up at P3,750/m² 30% D/P Bal. 3 Yrs to pay at 0% adjacent U.P. Los Banos Call: 842-9877 • Cell 0927-2946992

BUSINESS SPACE

Derm Cosmetic Surg. Clinic Fully Furnishd 534-4003 / 631-3496

MEMORIAL LOT

Loy-M G-ress@52T 8386645

Loy-P Cheap 45T 0916-4834182

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

SOUTHWATERS MARINA FARMS SELLING 160T (neg) CALL 0917-4196237

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75, 50 m² 9289541 / 7313055

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 526-8048

MANDALUYONG

Govs Place Shaw nr Edsa Stud P8.5T 534-8146, 0917-8193433

PASIG

CASA VERDE PASIG
Fully Furnished 3BR + Attic Call • 0917-6231994

QUEZON CITY

PHILAM TOWNHOUSE FRONT EDSA Bldg 2 UNIT 7 7361925

APARTMENT

MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9289541

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

41Fema nr EDSA Proj8- 9211050

7A 4 DE JULIO ST NR GALAS MKT QC 3STY 11T 4121399

Lady 3.5Tnew studio9137513

ROOM & BOARD

BUENDIA PASAY 8345973
SEMI FURN FREE L/W
]1 PER ONLY COME CR 3T MO

Nr Chinese Gen 7118679

Proj4 QC Rooms 9139635

Sucat Pque 8257524/24hrs

BUSINESS RENTAL

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

50 sqm Ortigas 09178454534

MALATE MLA 526-8048

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT
BAYVIEW INTL. TOWER 3
Roxas Blvd Pque. Semi Furnished 4br+maids. 1-Parking. Sale P7.5M / Rent P65Kpm + dues. Neg. Contact 8934110 or 0927 8904030

APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

APT P4,500-7,000 Manila Bedspacers 1,500 above 561-0960 look for Joyce/A|

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

'96 Hyundai Excel 70T Neg. 0917-8942658 • 724-3322

MERCEDES

MB 260E 0916-3293489

NISSAN

'89 Sentra Fld Mags Viper 984-8471 • Violy/Mary

TOYOTA

'01 REVO GSX M/T
1st Own 470T 0916-2148555

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Trooper Prado Surf
Land Cruiser Space Gear
Delica Serena Town-Lite Ace
Safari Terrano Estima
Vantette Ell Canter 4-6W etc
Trade-In Finance Warranty
9120647 09178342020 Glenn

BUSES/TRUCKS

WATER DELIVERY TRUCK COMPLETE SET P270 •TEL#809-8046•

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

ABC RENT A CAR
NEW CARS & VANS
PAJERO • HI-ACE
REVO • VIOS • ALTIS • STAREX
CRLA • CRV • LYNX • 536-8822
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 426-4084

CARS FOR RENT

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Hi-Ace • 534-4003 / 631-3496

Benz Jaguar Lincoln 6825922

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

L-3/ADV 415-8473

STAREX'04 MB100 9483535

NISSAN Urvan 0917-5444721

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

Toyco U Drive Coaster / Car Vans Rental • 8023022 or 21

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

Educ Plan - 2528373 Ramona

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3756988

Tired N Sick? Take RE-VITA LIQUAHEALTH 09178479179

PETS

Golden Ret Pups 929-8825

PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL Trains w/K9 Pschology Tel. 721-3736

WANTED TO BUY

-BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Mkti 893-0618 • G'hills 724-4374

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

RE: Closure of representative office of BALtrans Holdings Limited (the"Company") in Manila, Republic of Phils. Please be informed that the management has decided to close the Manila office of the Company. The decision was made to in line with the change of the company's startegy. Instead of maintaining a representative office in Manila, the Company decided to appoint a liason agent in Manila to take over the role currently assumed by the representative office in Manila.
- THE MANAGEMENT
(PDI-Sept. 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late MYRNA B. COLORINA has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc No. 143; Page No. 30; Book No. 99; Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Raul R. Olpindo of Marikina City.
(PDI-Aug 25 Sept 1 &8,2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

14,500 Bacnotan Consolidated Industries, Inc. shares with Certificate No.34268 registered in the name of Ma. Isabel G. Ongpin have been lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI- Sept.1,8,15, 2004)

2,400 Manila Electric Company shares with Certificate No. 73654 registered in the name of Elaine O. Herbosa and/or Ma. T. Sanchez ATF Ongpin Children have been lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI- Sept 1,8,15. 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

870 SQM Lot w/improvements. Ideal for motor shop warehouse & garage Call: 8908380 / 8955532 Heidi

Are u worried about $$$
Tired of 9-5 job?
Tired of looking for a job?
Reinvent yourself & start a Biz
Appt. Call 09275374741

PHARMACY - CONVENIENCE STORE w/coffee shop good location in Mkti nr banks, church, condo ofcs 8908380 / 8955532 Heidi

PERSONAL

JINKY, JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE! JACQUES

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code:atb2004 8531008 09178901851 Arlene

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d bisnez 0921-5914739

Inc Income PT upto 20T/mo3732531

Need Xtra Income P/F Time 7126374

RTW Consign 09167940002

Sell Youth Renew Partime & earn 6-figure monthly income P6750 start up 7400743 / 09196253284

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Start Ur Own Business w/o Capital • 0917-8463228

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Sec. Agency 631-3496 / 534-4003

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

DRIVER -STAY IN
10 Yrs. Exp., Police Barangay Clearance 7249330, 7249328

Mongkok Dimsum & Noodles Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Cainta needs immediately COOKS 3years experience with authentic Chinese dishes contact Mrs. Agnes Javier Tel. 4753955 / 4753960 local 25 or 26

FEMALE

SALES PROMO GIRLS
White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272890

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8922818

Got a Phone? Earn up to P30,000/mo. Flexible Hrs w/Travel Opp. 8927828

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Female, 23-30, 1-Ugra Business A/C I/E exp. 8.5K/ 1-College I/E Doc exp. corresp, 7K, both Chinese write/speak preference, work at SBFPZ, quarter provided, resumé/photo e-mail to bhv032002@yahoo.com.hk

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

EARN HIGHEST POSSIBLE COMMISSION ON EDU / PEN PLANS CALL PRYCE PLANS CALL CENTER - MLA T-8975916 / 5902 CDO (08822)727945 LIPA (043) 7561916 CEBU (032) 2315654 BACOLOD (034) 4350011 loc 11 DAVAO (082) 2219034 loc. 402/403

JOB HIRING 09196913491 IRA

SALES ASST - SEC.
For Cavite, Batangas Areas 0919-6724278, 0918-6388478

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CERTIFICATE NO. A-2198 FOR ONE (1) PROPRIETARY SHARE OF THE VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC. ISSUED TO SOTERO H. LAUREL WAS LOST.
(PDI-Aug. 25, Sept. 1 & 8, 2004)

More Classifieds on Page B6

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-PSD-2004-11

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 1, 2004; 9:00 AM			
11A1	J O -SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS/CONSUMABLES, TOOLS & EQUIPT, DETAILED ENG'G. FOR THE INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PC BASED DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM OF PB 101 UNITS 1-4 FOR EXHAUST GAS TEMP. MONITORING & OTHER VITAL PARAMETERS	PB1-04-109 (NY)	P 5,000,000.00
11A2	J O -SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS/CONSUMABLES, TOOLS & EQUIPT, DETAILED ENG'G. FOR THE INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PC BASED DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM FOR MGE'S 1-4 EXHAUST GAS & RESISTANCE BULB MONITORING SYSTEM	PB4-04-238 (ZC)	P 5,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 1, 2004; 2:00 PM			
11B1	COLORED PLOTTER / PRINTER, SOFTWARE UPGRADE, ARCGIS SPATIAL ANALYST & ENVIRONMENTAL VISUALIZING INSTRUMENT (ENVI)	OWMD-04-105 (ID)	P 1,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 4, 2004; 9:00 AM			
11C1	INTEGRATED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE/LOCAL AREA NETWORK (PB3)	1MCF-02-476 (JP)	P 6,300,000.00
11C2	RECIRCULATION VALVE FOR BOILER FEED PUMP W/ ACTUATOR AND ACCESSORIES (PB2)	2BCF-04-408 (JP)	P 5, 265,000.00
11C3	J O -SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR THE PARTIAL RETUBING OF BOILER ECONOMIZER (PB3)	2BCF-04-271 (NY)	P 15,000,000 00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 4, 2004; 2:00 PM			
11D1	VACUUM CIRCUIT BREAKER	2BCF-04-575 (NY)	P 6,600,000 00
11D2	VARIOUS RECORDER CHARTS	2BCF-04-505 (NY)	P 1,091,200 00
11D3	SUPPLY SERVICES FOR THE ACID CLEANING OF UNIT #1 BOILER, INCLUDING ENGINEERING, SUPERVISION, MATLS, SUPPLIES, INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY FACILITIES W/ TOOLS & EQUPT.	2BCF-04-407 (JP)	P 12,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 6, 2004; 2:00 PM			
11E1	J O -SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS IN THE REPAIR OF DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE MONITOR (PB2)	3TPM-04-011 (JP)	P 1,600,000 00
11E2	COOLING TOWER GEARBOX	3BAC-04-617 (RP)	P 4,250,000 00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 7, 2004; 9:00 AM			
11F1	GAUGE, TEMPERATURE, SURGE-SUPPRESSOR TYPE (PB2)	5PGP2-04-020 (LS)	P 1,872,000 00
11F2	MOTOR, INDUCTION, TYPE SQUIRREL CAGE	5PGP2-04-036 (LS)	P 3,289,500 00
11F3	J O -SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & EQUIPT FOR THE RETROFITTING OF STATION TRANSFORMER CIRCUIT BREAKER AT LGPP & TO UPGRADE THE EXISTING CIRCUIT RATED CAPACITY OF 1200 A TO 1500 A (PB2)	5LGP-04-185 (LS)	P 3,000,000.00
11F4	ELIMINATOR DRIFT, TYPE CELLULAR, TU 12X	5LGP-04-262 (LS)	P 7,600,000 00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 7, 2004; 2:00 PM			
11G1	J O SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS, TECH'L SUPERVISION IN THE REPAIR & INSTALLATION OF HOTWELL PUMP MOTOR VENTILATING DUCT OF MAKBAN PLANTS A & B	3MGM-04-182 (ZC)	P 6,000,000.00
11G2	J O -SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & TOOLS, EQUIPT & TECH'L SUPERVISION FOR THE APPLICATION OF HIGH VOLTAGE INSULATION COATING (HVIC) AT MAKBAN PLANTS B&C SWITCHYARDS	3MGM-04-202 (RP)	P 5,500,000.00
11G3	J O -SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & EQUIPT FOR THE REHAB OF UTILITY AIR COMPRESSOR OF PLANT C & UNIT NO. 2 INSTRUMENT AIR COMPRESSOR	3MGM-04-234 (RP) 3MGM-04-255 (RP)	P 2,000,000 00 P2,000,000 00

Note: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

11A1 – 11A2	Sept. 17, 2004; 9:00 AM	11E1 – 11E2	Sept. 22, 2004; 2:00 PM
11B1	Sept. 17, 2004; 2:00 PM	11F1 – 11F4	Sept. 23, 2004; 9:00 AM
11C1 – 11C3	Sept. 20, 2004; 9:00 AM	11G1 – 11G3	Sept. 23, 2004; 2:00 PM
11D1 – 11D3	Sept. 20, 2004; 2:00 PM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non refundable fee of PHP 500.00 per schedule starting on **September 8, 2004. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. No bid documents will be issued three (3) calendar days before the date of bidding.**

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by other NPC officers will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI – September 1 & 8, 2004)

SSS, KAPIT-BISIG N
TUNGO SA MAUNLA

MALACAÑANG
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCLAMATION NO. 682

DECLARING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2004 AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER AS "SOCIAL SECURITY MONTH"

WHEREAS, on September 1, 1957, the Social Security Act of 1954 was signed into law, marking a significant milestone in the efforts of the Philippine government to institute a mechanism for providing social security to the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2004, the Social Security System (SSS) shall celebrate its 47th anniversary as the lead institution in administering social security programs and protection of workers in the private sector, informal sector, overseas contract workers, and self-employed individuals;

WHEREAS, it is in the national interest to stimulate public awareness on the matters and issues involving social security protection and to encourage every citizen to take personal responsibility in uplifting their economic and social conditions through their active membership in the SSS;

WHEREAS, there is a need to highlight the role of the SSS in developing and promoting a viable, universal and equitable social security protection scheme through world-class service;

WHEREAS, the activities or programs initiated to mark the celebration of the milestones achieved by the SSS in the realization of its mandate, to promote the importance of membership in the SSS, and to publicize the programs and benefits available to SSS members, and the role of SSS in nation building, may be most effectively implemented in a one-month period dedicated for these activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the month of September 2004 and every year thereafter as "Social Security Month".

All departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the national government, local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations, government financing institutions, as well as the mass media and the entire citizenry are hereby enjoined to extend their whole-hearted support and cooperation by conducting specific programs necessary to effect this order in coordination with the Social Security System.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 4th day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Signed)
ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Executive Secretary

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. keynotes SSS Anniversary Program

Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr. shall be the guest of honor and keynote speaker during the 47th SSS Anniversary program on September 1, 2004 at 9 a.m. at the Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the SSS Main Office in Quezon City. Chief Justice Davide, a staunch advocate of social justice and equity, shall lead the ribbon cutting ceremonies to open the SSS Photo Exhibit, as well as keynote the Anniversary Program. He will also witness the handing out of the 9th Balikat ng Bayan Awards for SSS employer-members and partner-institutions.

Chief Justice Davide has always been a leader by example. His professional life has been, for the most part, devoted to public service. He is known to maintain his professional competence and integrity amidst attempts to influence his official action and judgment. His service record stands as proof that a public servant can make a difference, without being beholden to no interest other than the public's.

SSS Anniversary Programme

ANNIVERSARY

1 September Wednesday	SSS 47th Anniversary Program SSS Building, East Avenue, Quezon City
	8:00 am - Flag Ceremony Opening of Exhibits 9:00 - Anniversary Program Balikat ng Bayan Awards 11:00 - Thanksgiving Anniversary Mass 2:00 pm - Employees' Program Covenant of Service Awards
	SSS Information and Coverage Drives 10:00 am, SM Mall, Baguio City

POST-ANNIVERSARY

2 September	"Talakayan sa SSS" All SSS Hub Branches
3 September	Free Medical-Dental Outreach 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, MAC, East Avenue, Quezon City

SSS celebrates 47 years of social security

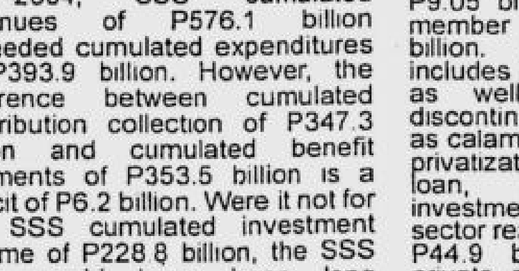
Forty-seven years ago, the Social Security System (SSS) was established to provide social security protection for the Filipino worker in the private sector and his family against life's contingencies such as sickness, childbirth, disability, retirement and death.

This is a mandate that the SSS has faithfully observed through benefit and pension payments, and loan programs that help members meet their financial requirements. This is a mandate that SSS hopes to keep on doing for many more years and for the present and future generations of members. But to do so, the SSS' stability must be ensured by likewise securing the fund's actuarial life or its capacity to adequately meet benefit obligations to members, especially when they reach retirement, as well as cover its attendant operational expenses.

This is a difficult challenge, but not totally insurmountable. Thus, this year's Anniversary theme of "SSS, Kapit-Bisig Nating Patatagin, Tungo sa Maunlad na Bukas Natin". The theme serves as a rallying point for all stakeholders to work together in making SSS stronger and more viable so that it is able to make good on its promise of securing the future of more than 25 million Filipinos.

SSS Performance Highlights:

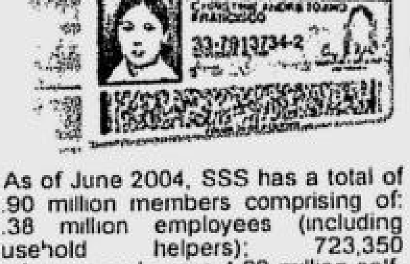
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 1957-JUNE 2004



Since its inception in 1957 until June-2004, the SSS earned P347.3 billion in contribution collections and P228.8 billion in investment and other income. The SSS also paid out a total of P353.5 billion in benefits and incurred P40.4 billion in operating expenses.

Thus, taken over the period 1957-2004, SSS' cumulated revenues of P576.1 billion exceeded cumulated expenditures of P393.9 billion. However, the difference between cumulated contribution collection of P347.3 billion and cumulated benefit payments of P353.5 billion is a deficit of P6.2 billion. Were it not for the SSS cumulated investment income of P228.8 billion, the SSS fund would have been long depleted, and benefit payments would have totally used up contribution collections. Given this scenario, drastic efforts have been put into place to ensure that contribution collections are sufficient to cover, if not exceed, benefit payments, while investment income is maximized to gain the highest yield.

Membership



As of June 2004, SSS has a total of 26.90 million members comprising of: 20.38 million employees (including household helpers); 723,350 employers; and some 4.99 million self-employed and voluntary members. Included in the self-employed/voluntary members (SE/VM) category are farmers and fishermen, overseas Filipino workers, and non-working spouses. Aside from its covered members, the SSS now has a total of 1,023,670 Social Security and EC pensioners.

Benefits and Loans Granted.

From January to June 2004, consolidated SSS and EC benefits amounted to P21.02 billion. Retirement payments accounted for the bulk of the claims at P9.10 billion, followed by death at P7.49 billion; disability at P1.50 billion; maternity at P1.20 billion, funeral grants at P935 million; sickness benefits at P679 million; medical and rehabilitation services at P38.43 million.

SSS assistance to its members comes in the form of short-term loans and long-term housing credit. From January to June 2004, salary loan releases reached P5.88 billion for 439,050 members. Housing loan releases, however, amounted to only P40.9 million for 71 approved applications.

Contribution Collections.

The SSS' contribution collections for the first semester this year has exceeded benefit payments, showing a significant turnaround in the fund's financial condition. From January to June 2004, contribution collections of P21.6 billion posted a 15 per cent increase from the P18.8 billion collected for the same period in 2003. This is the first time since 1999 that contributions surpassed disbursements for benefits.

Assets and Investments.

SSS assets as of June 2004 totaled P175.4 billion. Of this amount, some P160.3 billion are invested in various investment instruments and loan assets. As an important partner of the national government in its development efforts, housing loans accounted for P38.5 billion, while development loans reached P9.05 billion. Equally important, member loans reached P31.4 billion. This latter category includes the popular salary loan, as well as other currently discontinued loan programs such as calamity, stock investment and privatization fund, educational loan, and others. SSS investments in the government sector reached P21.8 billion, while P44.9 billion are invested in private equities, and real estate accounted for P14.5 billion.

Service Network.

From 10 extension offices in the 1960s, the SSS has expanded to 153 branch offices throughout the Philippines. To enable SSS to reach out to OFWs, it has opened foreign branch offices in Hong Kong, Taipei, Brunei, Sydney, Singapore, Riyadh, Jeddah, Al-Khobar, Kuwait, Abu-Dhabi, Doha, Rome, Milan, and San Francisco. Within 2004, new representative offices shall be opened in Tokyo (Japan) and London (U.K.). The SSS is also currently undertaking the construction of two new hub branch buildings, in Cebu and in Zamboanga, as well as renovation of other branch offices to serve members more conveniently.

Rationalizing the SSS Program:

The SSS benefit scheme is one of the most generous among the world's social insurance and pension funds. For the period 1980-2001, across-the-board pension increases of 10 to 20 per cent have been declared 19 times, the last one in September2000.

President Corazon de la Paz

These increases averaged 13.4 per cent per year for the period 1980-2000, yet the contribution rate remained at 8.4 per cent since 1979. It has become increasingly clear that pensions and benefits must be strongly linked with program contributions. Programs with benefits that are overly generous vis-à-vis contributions are not fiscally viable over the long haul. Also contribution compliance and investment earnings are of paramount importance to a pension fund's viability. This is because member contributions and investment earnings are the only sources of income for a contributory pension fund. Poor performance in any one of these areas would seriously jeopardize the actuarial life of the fund.

The past generosity of the SSS benefit program has caused an imbalance with contribution collections. Demographic changes in the membership profile have seen pensioners living and relying on their pensions longer than anticipated. Meanwhile, the number of actively contributing members has lowered vis-à-vis the number of retiring workers. Overall, the unpredictable state of the economy has caused a decline in the SSS investment income, as well as the ability of members to meet their loan obligations.

These factors, and more, have accentuated the need for the SSS to re-think its future and strategies, reinvigorate its sense of mission, and reaffirm its commitment to the mandate of social protection.

The Four Pillars of Governance of the de la Paz Administration.

Soon after her appointment as President of the Social Security System (SSS), Mrs. Corazon S. de la Paz focused and directed the efforts of the institution to build and amplify on its governance standards in four areas: Financial Viability, Sound Investments, Improving Quality of Service, and Strengthening Corporate Culture. These have come to be known as the Four Pillars of Governance of the de la Paz Administration.

Pillar 1: Financial Viability.

Crucial to the continued viability of the SSS Fund is prudent fiscal management. The challenge of ensuring longer actuarial fund life is a back-to-basics opportunity, coupled with a reinvigorated sense of mission.

- Adjustment of contribution rate. Studies show that the most effective way of ensuring the continued financial viability of the SSS is to adjust from time to time the rate of contribution to a more realistic level, taking into account the changes in demographics.

Already, a one-percentage point increase was effected in March 2003 raising contribution rate from 8.4 percent to 9.4 percent, a first in 23 years. While the increase was not enough it allowed SSS to buy some time especially when coupled with measures to bolster collection efforts, improve the investment portfolio, plug system losses and enhance service delivery to members.

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ATING PATATAGIN
NA BUKAS NATIN

• MSC Ceiling Raised and CYS Redefined. In November 2001, the maximum salary credit (MSC) was increased from P12,000 to P15,000 effective 01 January 2002. Also effected was the redefinition of twelve months of contributions to be equivalent to one credited year of service (CYS). The stricter CYS definition strengthened the link between benefits received by a member and contributions actually paid by him.

• Improved Contributions and Loans Collection. Contribution collections increased by 15 percent over the 2003 collection for the same period indicating that the billing system, the reinforced inspectorate system, and expanded payment systems are working to improve collections.

• Benefit Payments Rationalized. A way to safeguard the Fund and prevent fraud is to ensure that the right benefits are paid out to the right beneficiaries. One of the measures implemented is the Annual Confirmation of Pensioners (ACOP), which verifies the identity and status of SSS pensioners. Initial results of the ACOP showed an estimated recoverable amount of P3.5 million in pensions from accounts of pensioners who have either died, remarried, or were re-employed. At the same time, new criteria were developed for more accurate medical and functional assessments of disability claims. Updating SSS doctors on new medical practices related to disability claims are done on a continuing basis.practices related to disability claims are done on a continuing basis.

As of June 2004, 94 percent of transactions were completed within the time standards set by the COS. The expansion of the Program to membership-related transactions is also planned, with commitments.

Pillar 2:
Sound Investments.

The Asian currency crisis, followed by the September 11, 2001 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, has significantly contributed to the decrease in values of SSS investments. Thus, efforts have been made to liquefy long-term investments and diversify them into more high-yielding and liquid investments.

• Restructuring of the P40.5 billion NHMFC Accounts. Since the 1980s, the national government implemented various programs to address the growing need of Filipinos for decent housing. Through its direct and conduited financing programs, the SSS made substantial investments in this sector. In December 2003, the SSS finally succeeded in restructuring the P40.5 billion (US$723.2 million) obligation of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), thereby introducing more liquidity into the System.

• Possible sale of the SSS stake in the Equitable PCI Bank. SSS will put on sale its P15 billion (US$267.9 million) stake in the Equitable PCI Bank to enable it to diversify its investment into more profitable instruments. An announcement has already been made for this transaction to take place in October this year

• Penalties on Stock Investments and Privatization Fund Loans Condoned. The Social Security Commission approved a condonation program for delinquent accounts under the Stock Investment Loan Program (SILP) and Privatization Fund Loan Program (PFLP) effective January 2004. Under the condonation program, penalties on some 25,000 delinquent stock investment and privatization fund loans would be written off as long as members pay off their arrears during the amnesty period from September 24, 2003 to January 19, 2005. The program also allows borrowers to sell their shares to the SSS and proceeds would serve as payment for their loan.

• Disposal of Acquired Assets More Aggressively Pursued. To generate additional income and raise liquidity, the SSS aggressively pursued its lease and disposal of acquired assets.

Pillar 3:
Improving Quality of Service.

Under the de la Paz Administration, the SSS implemented it several measures to improve the delivery of services to its millions of members. The most significant of these measures are as follows:

• Covenant of Service (COS) Program, a system-wide effort to speed up member service delivery and bring actual processing time up to the pace of standards long prescribed by the SSS itself. Thus, for instance, retirement benefit processing has significantly been reduced from 45 days to just 15 days. For the first timein its history, SSS branches now display posters declaring to the public its commitments on processing time for each and every type of SSS benefit and service.

Table I. Processing Time Commitment, COS Program

Program	*Processing time (in no. of working days)*	
	Phase 1	*Phase 2*
1. Salary Loans	*3*	*1*
2. Funeral Claim	*3-5*	*3*
3. Sickness Notification	*3*	*2*
4. Sickness Reimbursement		
- Regular	*8*	
- SE/VM	*11*	*5*
5. Maternity		
- Normal/Caesarian	*8*	*5*
- Miscarriage	*11*	*5*
6. Disability Claim	*20*	*5*
7. Retirement Claim	*15*	*5*
8. Death Claim	*15*	*5*
9. SSS ID Issuance	*10*	*5*

Enhanced services through electronic and innovative technology. SSS continues to make use of high technology innovations in order to bring its services closer to its customers. Among these innovations include.

• Text-SSS Project. Members are able to access information about their contributions and the status of their loan applications through the use of short messaging service (SMS) or texting. An average of 7,000 and 10,000 subscribers ofSmart Communications, Inc. and Globe Telecommunications, Inc., respectively, make use of the service.

• SMEC Benefits Paid Through-the-Bank. To ensure safer, faster and more convenient payment of Sickness, Maternity and Employees' Compensation (SMEC) benefits, payment through-the-bank of these benefits was implemented in January 2003. As of end-July 2004, there were 37 participating banks, 487 employer-enrollees, 1,861 claims paid, and P16.1 million of SMEC benefits disbursed through the bank.

• UnionBank Online Payment System. In June 2004, the SSC approved the UnionBank Online Payment Proposal, an e-settlement facility that allows its corporate customers to settle their SSS obligation through the Internet, on-line and in real-time mode.

• Use of Prepaid Cards for SSS Payments. The SSS is looking into using prepaid cards for SSS payments. The aim is to improve collections, provide greater convenience to members to remit payments, and improve SSS efficiency in receipt, control and accounting of member payments.

• Use of digitized SSS ID Card. To ensure the payment of the benefits and loans to the right payees and to speed up the processing of claims, the SSS required the use of the digitized SSS ID in all transactions at its service counters. Since production began in 1998, enrollment for the SSS ID doubled in the last three years to almost six million. Because of its security features, the SSS ID has been considered for adoption as the national ID of the Philippines.

Pensioners report to the SSS Headquarters for annual medical check-up and confirmation of their entitlements from SSS.

Tellering Services Expanded to Major Branches.

In addition to the banking network, the SSS established tellering counters in its major branches to facilitate payment of contributions and loans by members. As of August 2004, tellering services were made available in 9 hub branches and 8 processing centers. There are plans to expand to an additional 23 branches more.

Social Protection for OFWs

More than half a million Filipino overseas workers have enrolled in the program since it started in 1997 through the 14 SSS foreign representative offices in countries where there are a number of overseas Filipino workers. Aside from the regular social security program, the SSS provides a provident fund program for the OFWs called the SSS Flexi-fund, to enable them to save more while they earn dollars abroad. The program has already enrolled 38,478 OFWs with corresponding collections of P 41 million as of July 2004.

Pensioners' Day.

The Pensioners' Day Program was started in January 2004 as a way for SSS to honor and serve its over one million pensioners. It is currently held twice a month in SSS hub branches and in the Quezon City main office, during which pensioners are treated to free medical check-ups, free medicines for simple ailments, snacks and short lectures by experts on health issues and healthy living.

WELCOME!
to the
PENSIONERS' DAY

SSS President & CEO Corazon S. de la Paz (right, standing) addresses pensioners during the Pensioners' Day program at the East Avenue, Main Office.

Information and Coverage Drive.

Regular information and coverage drives, particularly among informal sector workers, are conducted as a way to increase awareness of the benefits and obligations of membership. Info and coverage drives are being held in baranggay and municipal centers, in shopping malls, and in various university job fairs, wherein SSS officials meet face-to-face with ordinary folks to address their concerns about SSS

Pillar 4:
Strengthening Corporate Culture.

Realizing that its success depends in part on the support of its employees, the SSS continues to invest in the development of highly motivated, well-trained and knowledgeable workforce It continues to institutionalize a corporate culture that instills the core values of Trust, Empowerment and Teamwork. The de la Paz administration has added a new corporate value to that list: Fiscal Discipline. In these difficult times for SSS finances, the entire SSS workforce banded together to work within. the set fiscal limits, to accept cuts in their benefits and freezes in salary levels, and to always ensure cost-effective operations. All the while, keeping the world-class quality service to members at a premium. Hence, despite austerity measures, SSS was able to:

• Beef up the Inspectorate Program. The SSS hired 319 new Accounts Officers (AOs) to strengthen the its inspectorate system bringing the total number to 631 as of August 2004. These AOs are responsible for ensuring the timely remittance employers of their employees' contribution and loan repayments, reporting the correct number of employees and the correct monthly salary credits.

• Control operating costs. For three straight years, the SSS succeeded in cutting its operating expenses, such as employee benefits, lower office space rentals, rent escalation rates, and equipment rentals. With full support from SSS personnel, these austerity measures have resulted in savings of about P300 million in 2001, P575 million in 2002 and P--625.1 million in 2003.

Bringing SSS Back to the Future:

The immensity and importance of the social responsibility of the SSS is no longer debatable. For many of its members, the SSS spells the difference between having and not having the financial means to meet the real life contingencies of birth, sickness, death, disability and old age Thus far, the SSS has risen to the challenge of fulfilling this mandate

Nonetheless, the last two decades, have taken its toll on this venerable institution. It is now undergoing one of the most challenging phases in its history. Let members be assured, however, that every effort is being exerted to restore the life of the fund gradually and deliberately. Years from now, members shall look back to this period as the time when all the women and men of the SSS worked with exceptional zeal, arm-in-arm with the members and other stakeholders, to secure the SSS and bring it back to the future.

The 2004 Balikat ng Bayan Awards

The Social Security System (SSS) shall honor its institutional partners during the presentation ceremonies of the Balikat ng Bayan Awards on September 1, 2004 at the Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the SSS Building in Quezon City. The Awards program is part of the 47th Anniversary celebration of the SSS.

The Balikat ng Bayan is an annual award presented to institutions in recognition of their laudable achievements and contributions to the attainment of the SSS' mission of ensuring the social security protection of Filipinos everywhere. This is SSS' way of extending its appreciation to employer-members for their support of SSS programs and their conscientious observance of their responsibility towards their employees in terms of SSS coverage and contributions. The country's top banks shall also be recognized for their partnership with the SSS in providing wider social security coverage, particularly to workers in the informal sector..

The Balikat ng Bayan trophy is circular in shape, signifying the SSS' all-encompassing vision of universal coverage, while the encircling cord represents the System's stability and commitment to its mandate.

The map of the Philippines, as illustrated in the trophy, depicts the efforts of SSS to bring its services closer to its members nationwide. Noted Filipino sculptor Dr. Antonio Raymundo executed the design of the trophy, which is made of polymer resin.

This is the ninth time that the SSS will hand out the Balikat ng Bayan Awards, since the program's inception in 1995. It is not only a tribute to employer members, government and private sector institutions, but it also depicts the character of SSS as a helping arm and a shoulder to lean on in

2004
BALIKAT NG BAYAN AWARDEES

Top Employer (Overall)
Del Monte Philippines, Inc.

NCR Top Employer
Jollibee Foods Corporation

Luzon Top Employer
International Wiring Systems (Phils.) Corp.

Visayas Top Employer
Cebu Mitsumi, Inc.

Mindanao Top Employer
Del Monte Philippines, Inc.

Best Paying Bank
Philippine National Bank

Best Collecting Bank
Commercial Bank MetroBank

Thrift Bank Planters Bank Corp.
Rural Bank Green Bank of Caraga

Best Participating Financial
Institutions (PFI)

PFI - Hospital Financing
Phil. Bank of Communications

PFI - School Financing
Equitable-PCIBank, Inc.

PFI - Housing Loans
Union Bank of the Philippines

SSS to conduct Free Medical-Dental outreach

A free Medical and Dental outreach program will be held nationwide as part of the 47th Anniversary celebration of the Social Security System (SSS).

At the SSS Main Office in Quezon City, the medical-dental outreach program shall be conducted on September 3, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Members Assistance Center (MAC) along East Avenue. Medical and dental personnel from the SSS Medical Operations Group will be available for consultation by members and their dependents, to conduct ECG, blood-sugar and cholesterol testing, perform dental extractions, as well as dispense free medicines for common ailments.

The medical-dental outreach program shall also be replicated within the whole month of September at the following branches: Makati I, Makati II, Alabang, Manila, Pasig, Baguio, Tarlac, San Pablo, Dagupan, Bicol/Naga, Cebu, Bacolod, Tacloban, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Butuan, and Zamboanga.

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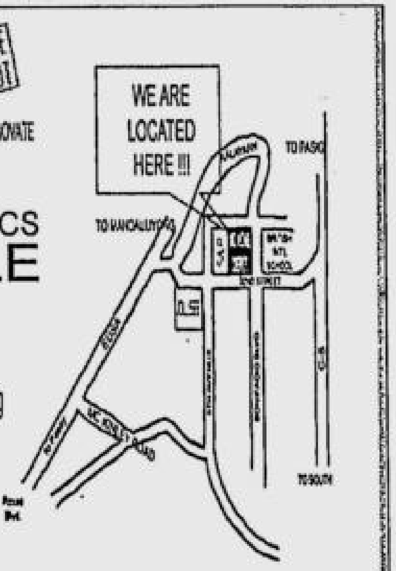

For more details:
Call 750-7336 / 750-3794.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) is inviting all interested, duly registered qualified persons, natural or juridical, to apply for eligibility and submit bid proposal for the **"NLRC Case Management System (NLRC-CMS)"** project.

The project is for the design, development and installation of computer-based solution and network systems (including the supply of hardware, peripherals and networking facilities and conduct of appropriate training) that would store, process and maintain a repository of all cases filed with the NLRC and its regional branches, such as critical case information details (eg. nature of the case, parties involved, case status and case disposition details), adjudication reports and searchable data base of all labor laws, rules, regulations and jurisprudence that shall be made available to authorized users' online.

The approved budget for the contract in the amount of Thirty Nine Million One Hundred Two Thousand (P39,102,000.00) pesos, *excluding* the cost of internet connectivity, is sourced from the E-Government Fund (Sec. 68, General Provisions, R.A. 9206). The winning bidder is expected to complete the project in eight (8) months from notice to proceed.

All interested parties are invited to submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to, and procure the list of eligibility and short listing requirements from, the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) – Secretariat. Bidding documents, including the terms of reference, shall be made available only to eligible bidders. For any inquiry, contact Emilio G. Santos, BAC Secretariat Head, tel. no. 7817871; fax no. 7407733; e-mail address:info@nlrc.dole.gov.ph or nlrcmis@yahoo.com.

All bidders shall be subjected to eligibility and short-listing procedure approved by the BAC.

The determination of the winning bidder shall be based on the Highest Rated Bid upon evaluation of the technical proposal using the "quality-based evaluation selection procedure" and the Highest Rated Responsive Bid in accordance with the provision of R.A. 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act) and its implementing rules.

Schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activities	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Deadline/Opening of Eligibility and Short-List Requirements	Sept. 15, 2004	10:00 AM	BAC Secretariat c/o Admin Division
Availability of Bid Documents*	Sept. 15, 2004	During office hours	BAC Secretariat
Announcement of Short List	Sept. 23, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr., Conference Rm.
Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 24, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr., Conference Rm.
Deadline/Opening of Bids	Oct. 6, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr., Conference Rm.

* Upon payment at the NLRC Cashier, 6th Flr. PPSTA Building 4, cor. P. Florentino St., Banawe, Q.C. in cash or cashier checks, payable to the NLRC, of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php 5,000.00).

NLRC reserves, the justifiable reasons, the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, refuse to award the contract, or accept the offer most advantageous to the government: It also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate/indemnity bidders for expenses incurred in the preparation of bids. Prospective bidders are required to conform and observe the provision of Republic Act 9184 and its implementing rules.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. APOLLO X.C.S. SANGALANG**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 1, 2004)

AUCTION
www.henrybutcher.com
UNUSED GENERATING SETS; ELECTRICALS; UNUSED HAND/POWER TOOLS; OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT MATERIALS HANDLING; ETC.
ON: Thursday 2nd September 2004 - 10:30 A.M. Sharp
UNUSED GENERATING SETS -TAIYAKO TY40 40 kva; (2) TY25 25 KVA; DENYO DCA25 25 kva (Sound Proof); SHIN KOBE 6.5 kva; 3 kva Portable Generating Sets; (2) Welding Generators
ELECTRICALS - WESTINGHOUSE, CUTLER HAMMER, G.E. Heavy Duty Circuit Breakers; TELEMECANIQUE Contactors; WESCOR 100 kva Transformer; APPLETON Multi-Tap Ballast Post Light Fixtures; ACRILIFT Flourescent Light; Rapid Start Ballasts; Electric Meters; Electric Immersion Heaters; etc.
UNUSED HAND/POWER TOOLS - (2) TOSHIBA Hydraulic Pipe Banders; (2) HITACHI Electric Hand Breaker; (2) MIKASA Tamping Rammer; MAKITA Drill & Grinder Sets; Routers; Planers; CROSSMAN Metric Hand Socket Wrench Sets; Box Wrench Sets; Vice Grips; Hand Riveters; Hammers; SATO Ax; Screw Driver Sets; Tin Snips; etc.
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Unused MELANIA Swivel Chairs; Unused Mobile Computer Tables; Unused ALONDRA 4-Drawer Single/Double Console Cabinets; Laundry Baskets; Steel Blue Print Cabinets; 4-Drawer Steel Filing Cabinets; Pentium 3, Desktop Computer, CANON NP1215 Photocopying Machine; Printers; etc.
MATERIALS HANDLING - RAYMOND 2-Ton Cap. Battery Forklift; (2) Electric Hoists; Chain Block; etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - Unused High Pressure Washers; Unused MASATA 10-Ton Hydraulic Body Frame Repair Kit; Unused Water Pumps; Unused Submersible Pumps; Gas Stoves; Silicon Sealants; Butane Gas; HILTI Expansion Bolts; Rechargeable Spot Lights; BLUE M Laboratory Oven; etc.
At: Henry Butcher Auction Center - c/o Hilon Compound - Bo. Mayapa, Canlubang, Laguna
Viewing Date: Wednesday 1st September 2004
9AM-5PM & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php10,000 (upon registration)
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Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

PUBLIC AUCTION OF SSS' EPCIB SHARES

ANNOUNCEMENT

The last day for obtaining copies of bid documents in the Public Auction of SSS' EPCIB shares is Friday, 10 September 2004 up to 5:00 P.M.

Interested parties may secure copies of (a) Instruction to Bidders, and annexes; and (b) the Bid Forms, after registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) or equivalent in US Dollars from the Office of the Special Bids and Awards Committee ("SBAC"), 7th Floor, SSS Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee
For the Public Auction of SSS' EPCIB Shares

(PDI – September 1, 2004)

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Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
e-mail: pid@info.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Supply and Delivery of Various Medical Equipment**, with an approved budget of **Thirty Six Million Pesos (Php 36,000,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Trust Fund, broken down into five (5) LOTs, as follows:

ITEM	NOMENCLATURE	AMOUNT
LOT 1	RADIOLOGY EQUIPMENT	5,060,000.00
LOT 2	OPERATING ROOM/ANESTHESIA EQUIPMENT	10,480,000.00
LOT 3	LABORATORY EQUIPMENT	5,444,000.00
LOT 4	RECOVERY ROOM/INTENSIVE CARE UNIT EQPT.	10,876,000.00
LOT 5	SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS	4,140,000.00
	TOTAL	Php 36,000,000.00

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers and authorized suppliers/distributors of said medical equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents for the respective LOTs are available for issuance starting September 1, 2004 until October 7, 2004 during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment, as follows:

ITEM	BID DOCUMENTS	PRICE
LOT 1	RADIOLOGY EQUIPMENT	Php 1,000.00
LOT 2	OPERATING ROOM/ANESTHESIA EQUIPMENT	1,500.00
LOT 3	LABORATORY EQUIPMENT	1,000.00
LOT 4	RECOVERY ROOM/INTENSIVE CARE UNIT EQPT.	1,500.00
LOT 5	SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS	1,000.00

which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

A Secretary's Certificate with Board Resolution or Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **September 24, 2004 at 09:00 AM (local time)** at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference

Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements and bid envelopes is on **October 8, 2004 at 09:00 AM (local time)** and followed by the Opening of Bids at **09:30 AM** at the **Silid Panday Pira.**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Original Signed)
REYNALDO D RIVERA
Major General AFP
Chairman, AFP BAC

(PDI – September 1 & 8, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Budget and Management Bids and Awards Committee (DBM-BAC) invites G-EPS registered companies/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Security and Janitorial Manpower Services for FY 2005 in accordance with the following terms and schedule:

Project Title	Approved Budget for the Contract	Pre-Bid Conference	Advance Eligibility Submission	Deadline/ Opening of Bids
Security Manpower Services	P5,861,000.00	September 15, 2004 9:00 A.M.	September 24, 2004 9:00 A.M.	October 1, 2004 9:00 A.M.
Janitorial Manpower Services	P5,500,000.00	September 15, 2004 1:00 P.M.	September 24, 2004 1:00 P.M.	October 1, 2004 1:00 P.M.

Bid documents shall be available at the Office of the Director, Administrative Services (AS), G/F, Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila starting September 1, 2004 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,500.00.

Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the AS Conference Room, G/F, Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila.

For more information, please call the DBM-BAC Secretariat at telephone no. 735-49-02.

The DBM reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure, or award the contract to the bidder whose offer is the most responsive, lowest calculated bid, and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LUIS C. LIWANAG II**
Undersecretary
Chairperson, DBM-BAC

(PDI-Sept. 1, 2004)

OBITUARIES

JULIAN H. HUSMILLO

of Balagtasin, San Jose, Batangas

Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 30, 2004 at the age of 79.

His wife **DORING**; children **LITA, MILA, ELLEN, MERZ, LEO, ABET, GIA, MILO, MARISSA** and **CESAR**; sons-in-law **GARY, FRANCIS, JOE** and **LOUIE**; daughters-in-law **MINDA, MERCY, EDITH** and **GEMMA**; grandchildren **SANDY, KRISTINE, ALEX, AUGIE, MARK, JHAY-R, KAYE, DORIS, JOHN-F, EUGENE, JOSHUA, JOLO, CARLO, MICAH, JASMINE, WALTER** and **AIB**; grandson-in-law **NOEL**; greatgrandchild **BEA**; relatives and friends request to pray for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at the Husmillo's residence in Balagtasin, San Jose, Batangas.

Interment will be at the Sacred Cross Memorial Garden, Barangay Dagatan, San Jose, Batangas at 2:00 p.m. after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Saint Joseph Church, San Jose, Batangas.

MARIANO ANG CHONG

Peacefully joined our Creator
on August 28, 2004 at the age of 62.

His bereaved children **Gina and Boc Villamor, Gerry and Manlyn Vilal, Genevieve Vilal and Gilbert Ang Chong**; grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place on Friday, September 3, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. at La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

On the 1st Death Anniversary
of our Beloved
RENATO "Rene" BONADOR VASQUEZ
September 01, 2004

We would like to thank all of you who have mourned with us in time of our bereavement,
- Loving Tatay, Nanay
and sisters Bebeth, Ruby & Rachel

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

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The Board of Directors

Management and Staff
of

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mourn the passing of its well-loved
Chairman Emeritus

Joselin G. Fragada

who joined our Lord on August 30, 2004 at the age of 81.

We share in his family's grief and offer our prayers
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Greenmeadows Chapel,
beside the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Pasig City.

*(In lieu of flowers, the bereaved family requests that donations
be given to the REACH OUT VILLE FOUNDATION, Inc.)*

**We lovingly remember Our Beloved Mama on her
Forty Fifth Death Anniversary**

EUFEMIA CRUZ VENTANILLA

*of Cabanatuan City and Calumpit, Bulacan
who died on September 2, 1959*

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow at the following churches:

1.	**Saint Basil Church** *Brecksville, Ohio*	9:00 AM
2.	**Saint Nicholas Tolentine Cathedral** *Cabanatuan City*	All Masses
3.	**Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel** *Cabanatuan City*	6:00 AM
4.	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish** *Philamlife Homes, Las Piñas, Metro Manila*	All Masses
5.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Multinational Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila*	All Masses
6.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Rosario Complex, San Pedro, Laguna*	All Masses
7.	**Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish** *Biñan, Laguna*	All Masses
8.	**Parish of the Holy Sacrifice** *U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
9.	**Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish** *Katipunan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
10.	**St. James the Great** *Alabang Village, Muntinlupa*	All Masses
11.	**St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish** *Ayala Alabang Village*	All Masses
12.	**Mary Help of Christian Parish** *Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque*	All Masses
13.	**Immaculate Conception Parish** *Concepcion, Marikina City*	6:00 A.M.

Her surviving children: Gloria, Oscar Jr., Rosalinda; sons and daughters-in-law and grandchildren, request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

CHARLIE TOLENTINO CABILDO

*was called home to the Lord on August 29, 2004
at the age of 43.*

A loving husband to his wife, **Ching**, and a proud father to **Billie**; other relatives and friends request readers to join them in prayer for his eternal happiness in heaven.

A necrological service will be held today, September 1, 8:00 p.m. at the Laguna Memorial Chapel beside St. John the Baptist Church, Calamba City.

Cremation will take place on September 2 at 3 p.m., Eternal Crematory, San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the St. John the Baptist Church.

ATTY. JOSELIN G. FRAGADA

*Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 30, 2004 at the age of 82.*

His loving wife **Chi Chi**; children **Joey & Claire, Annie & Dodo Garcia, Carissa & Monchit Mackay, Din Din & Joey Jodloman, Marc & Karen**; grandchildren **Jake, Cayo, Chino, Rocky, Anina, Crisel, Celina, Gabby, Miguel, Gio, Ali, Martin, Mateo** and **Marco**; brother-in-law **Eddie**; brothers and sisters request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at Christ The King Parish Church, Green Meadows Ave., Quezon City, from September 1-3, 2004.

There will be a Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 3, 2004 at Christ The King Church.

In lieu of flowers, his family requests that donations be made in Celing's name to Reachout Ville Foundation Inc., for the benefit of the street children of Brgy. Batibot in Muntinlupa City.

*"For we know that if the earthly house in which we dwell be destroyed,
we have a building from God, a house not made by human hands,
eternal in the heavens."* – **2 Corinthians 5:1**

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Working moms are moms, too!

WORKING MOM

Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

MESSAGE from a friend last Saturday: "I hate it how people say, 'oh, you work, so *Lola ang nag-aalaga ng bata*,' *sabay* with that look. Am I being over sensitive? People don't seem to recognize that work is one way of *alaga* too ... that if we didn't do it, who would? And we get defensive, but why do we have to defend ourselves at all? Why can't we be appreciated? What do you say to that?"

A lot!

Ok, so some people are just old-fashioned and maybe we're just a wee-bit paranoid. But, yes, working is definitely a way of *alaga*! We work to take care not only of our families, but ourselves—because if we aren't healthy, well-rounded women, we'd be rotten, bitter moms. As a sole breadwinner, I work to put food on the table, diapers on my twin boys' bottoms, and my daughter in the best school I could find for her—but the financial reasons for working, at least for me, are only secondary to the fulfillment and satisfaction I derive from my career.

Some work because they refuse to be idle, some because they need to feel needed or approved of, some because they're born "career women." How many times have we (the staff, the writers, the readers) in Working Mom said that without our careers, we would wilt and die?

Without work, we'd break

We love what we do—just as we nurture our families and ourselves, we pour heart and soul in our jobs. And when we do them well, we are rewarded just as much. We feel better about ourselves, about where we are and what we do, and we emit that positive vibe to our families and children. Another friend thought she'd be a better mom if she quit her job. She did, expecting she could do the Mary Poppins thing with her two young children, but instead, she ended up being a cranky governess. Everyone—children included—was happier when she went back to work, and went back to being the sweet, smiling mom they all knew.

Being a working mom doesn't mean that we neglect our kids, that they'll turn out to be suicidal, angst-filled maniacs. In "Ditch The Working Mom Guilt" (Working Mom, February 2003), psychologist Anna Ocampo and counselor Sonia Sison Mendoza both agree that negative traits like aggression and below-average test scores cannot be directly linked to working mom-ship. On the contrary, kids of working mothers who invest in educational toys and a regular schedule of bonding ("quality time") are more confident, secure of their own skills, independent, and more appreciative of—and practice—good work ethics.

More proof: A study made by Elizabeth Harvey, a psychologist at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, says that "there is no difference between children whose mothers were employed versus children whose mothers were not employed during the first three years." And if ever there were differences in language development, academic achievement, self-esteem and behavior problems, she added, they consistently got smaller—if not totally disappeared—by age 12. Fundamentally, she adds, the study suggests that issues other than the outside employment of the mother exist in raising children.

Kapish?

Working lola

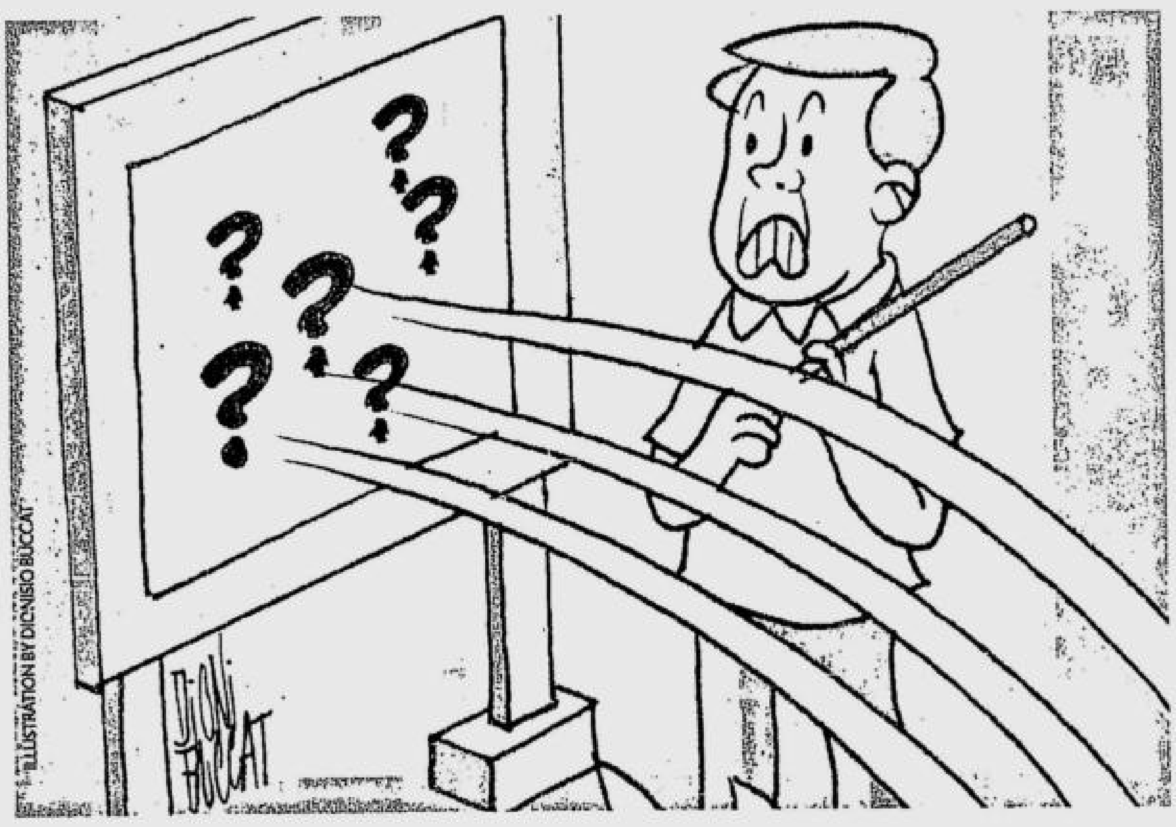
Oh, and one more thing: when I go to work, I don't leave my kids with their *lola*. I leave them with two *yayas* and a maid. Why? Because my mom, Lirio, is a working mom as well. True, she has more time for her *apos* and herself now that she's doing consultancy, but she's still just as passionate about her job now as I'm sure she was before, when she was starting out as a young professor at the Lyceum. And I'm darn proud of it!

When I was growing up, she seldom helped me with my homework (something I never took against her); but she did do my makeup and hair for my junior and senior prom, and all my sorority balls—and everyone thought I went to James Cooper ("Lirio's House of Beauty *lang 'yan*," I would quip). She had a temper when she was stressed, but there was not a single time when I was sick (even as a teenager) that she did not lose sleep to rub my back and chest with Vicks or prepare me a steam bath. There was a time when she had to take a long-term assignment in Cagayan, then later finish her PhD in the US, but I never thought she was a bad mom. Stereotypical representations of working moms' kids like to portray them resenting their moms' careers, but I never did. It was just the way things were. I'd like to believe that how my mom has added spice, color, dimension-character!—to what I am now, because she herself is wonderful mix of Woman.

She has the most diverse wardrobe (which I frequently filch and borrow from); dances and goes to the gym more regularly than I do; makes her own garden lamps; and is such a good cook that, when I eat out, I really think twice about ordering dishes that I know she can do better (her pasta, *estofado*, lamb stew, you name it!). She's there in a snap when I need her, and when my twins sleep over in her house, she's a non-stop super lola-right down to giving them their baths.

So, yo, here's to people who give us "that look": Quit it with the notions. Working moms are moms, too. We're just packaged differently.

(*Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. Get the September issue of Working Mom, with a gorgeous Marjorie Barretto-Padilla on the cover. Comments are welcome at* gina_llanes@abs.pinoycentral.com.)



What questions should you ask about your project?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: My boss is one of those people who shoots every project you have full of holes. I've worked for this guy for years and I still can't seem to anticipate his questions. Short of hiring a mind-reader, what can I do?

Target Practice

The Texas Department of Corrections recently canceled its contract with the VitaPro Soybean Company. Apparently, they'd just had too much of a good thing. Demoralized prisoners were complaining about a variety of health risks from eating too many soybeans, including rampant flatulence.

You'd think that whoever negotiated the contract might have anticipated that feeding beans to people who live closely in small spaces might raise a stink. But no. Hopefully, the tips below will help you anticipate problems with your projects so you'll take less gas from your boss. For more, check out "By the Numbers" by McLeary, et. al. (Amacom, 2000).

Can you take an objective look at what you're doing? It's hard to be objective about projects we're very close to. We tend to be overly rosy or gloomy in our appraisals. So the challenge to you is to determine whether you tend to see things as better or worse than they really are, and then to look for data that would prove you wrong. That way you can anticipate the greater objectivity your boss will bring.

How will your effort be measured? Everybody today is driven by the bottom line. But there are many ways to approach it. Is your boss more interested in profit margin or in market share? In increasing revenues or decreasing costs? Be sure that you're on the same wavelength as your boss on the best way to measure the results of your project. Did you ask yourself lots of "what if" questions? What if this project takes longer than you thought? What if it costs more? What if sales fall short of projections? What if the market changes? What if something goes wrong? What are the hidden risks? You know your boss is going to ask these, and similar, questions. Be prepared to answer them before she asks.

Can you include backup information? One way to substantiate your thinking to your boss is to include backup data that make your case. Market research studies, newspaper or journal articles, information about your competitors, laboratory or engineering reports: credible information from other sources can make you look smarter.

What do you do when facts don't fit? It's rare in business that everything comes together on a project. There are almost always facts that don't fit. You don't have to obsess on them, but it's wise not to blow them off either. Investigate those errant facts a little to see if you turn up something that could prove useful to the project. Sometimes, odd bits of information contain the keys to unexpected solutions.

You have to ask yourself lots of questions to sniff out the truth of your projects. Just ask the Texas Department of Corrections.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which way do you tend to view your projects?

—Too rosy, 12.3 percent

—To darn close for them to know, 39.8 percent

—Too gloomy, 47.7 percent

(*Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

'Meetings Exchange' at Makati Shangri-La

MAKATI Shangri-La Hotel, in cooperation with MEET Inc., proudly announces the highly anticipated Corporate Meetings Fair 2004 entitled "Meetings Exchange" to be held on Sept. 8 to 9 at the Rizal Ballroom, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

This annual affair brings together various companies that specialize in professional meetings, conferences and events, featuring their latest offerings in state-of-the-art presentation equipment, corporate giveaways, audiovisual equipment, post-convention parties, travel and entertainment. The main highlight for this year's fair is the seminar series where industry leaders will be sharing their experiences and expertise through a series of lectures.

On Sept. 8, Josefina Santamaria, President of Career Systems Inc., will be spearheading the lecture series with "Effective Conflict Resolution Techniques." This will be followed by a session that tackles the preparations and steps needed for successful negotiations aptly called "Negotiating your Way to Success: Effective Win-Win Negotiation Techniques" by Ernie Cecilia, President of EC Business Solutions and Career Center. There will also be a lecture on "Getting Ahead at Work without Leaving your Family Behind" by An Mercado-Alcantara, Deputy Editorial Director of ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc.

Other career-related issues will also be discussed in the seminar series. On Sept. 9, Francis Kong, CEO of Funworks, Inc. who is also a well-known values formation and motivational speaker, will help the participants develop a culture of personal excellence. There will also be interactive discourses on how to enhance "SQ" or spiritual intelligence in leadership by Dr. Andre San Agustin, consultant of Optimus Innovations, Inc.

"Meetings Exchange" is brought to you by MEET Inc., and is co-presented by HSBC, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Optimus Innovations Inc. It is also made possible by Globe Platinum, Globe Quest, Star Cruises, Cebu Pacific, Samsung, Happy Living, Anthony's Wines Cellar, Hugo Boss, Liz Claiborne, Escada, Escada Sport, St. John, Laurel, Betty Barclay, Systems Axis, JT Stage and Stage Craft. Interested parties may call Makati Shangri-La's Events Management Department at 813-8888 local 7476 for more information.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Ways to stop demotivation at work

From page B0

worse if the boss still finds time for two-hour lunches and lots of chit-chat while the work is sitting. He thinks, "If it's okay for work to be a week late, next time, I'll take it easier and use the extra week."

Promotion policies

When the new hire joins the company, he looks around and sees various people in their various positions, and everything appears logical. The bosses seem like bosses, and the higher bosses seem like higher bosses. He presumes that there are good reasons why they're all where they are. But as the years go by, he sees people change positions and he begins to see some younger people moving into leadership positions. At times he wonders why Employee A was promoted rather than Employee B, who seems to be contributing more. He wonders what the criteria for promotion are. Maybe he wonders about criteria for "demotion" too. And he wonders what this means for his own chances for promotion. Maybe he's emphasizing the wrong things as far as getting ahead goes.

Non-challenging work

Before long, the recent hire finds himself doing tasks that are much less than he's capable of. Maybe it's because support people have been cut to reduce costs. Maybe the company has such a bare-bones staff that they contract out all the good work and just expect their employees to be contract monitors. He wonders, "Is this what I spent all those years in college (or training) for?"

Time wasters

The go-getter is working his tail off, putting in overtime and striving hard to be as efficient as possible because there's so much to do. But he soon finds that he has to attend certain worthless meetings and take care of mindless bureaucratic nonsense and "administrivia." He asks himself, "Why should I bust my butt trying to do all this work when the company makes me waste time on junk like this? If they don't care whether I get any worthwhile work done or not, why should I care?

Pigeonholing

Although he was hired for his strong and unique abilities, he finds there are some who think he should be like everyone else. They seem to want all their employees to be interchangeable so they can be moved around like pawns on a chessboard. His unique abilities are not appreciated.

What can we do?

In summary, the go-getter can become demotivated by things he sees or experiences over the years, things that change his view of the corporate culture. These experiences clash with his own value system, which provides the basis for his self-motivation, or intrinsic motivation. And self-motivation is the only kind of motivation that really works and lasts.

Is the new picture he's getting of the corporate culture a necessary correction of a naive, unrealistic view? The answer should be no. His initial vision of the company culture is the one the company sold him on. And if the company is not being deliberately deceptive, the culture he envisioned is the one the company really wants to exist.

Most companies want their organizations to be one in which people focus on the work customers want, and one in which employees are appreciated and rewarded accordingly. Thus, in order for a company to compete effectively, it must make the best use of the great talent of their people.

So how do we stop the demotivation? By getting our priorities back to the way we really want them to be.

(*Reprinted with permission from hr-info.com. For more information e-mail Daniel Hissong at* dhisso@ev-1.net.)

ERRATUM

IN LAST week's People at Work, the article about the upcoming best of People at Work Live! Seminar Series should contain the photo of An Mercado-Alcantara as speaker for the topic "Getting Ahead at Work without Leaving your Family Behind" instead of Tita Datu Puangco's photo. People at Work apologizes for the error.

'How can we survive the fiscal crisis?'

From page B14

tors such as weak infrastructure and high-energy costs, discourage foreign investors.

Fourth, reduce or eliminate graft and corruption in your area of influence. If you are a company, pay the right taxes instead of bribing people to reduce taxes. If you drive and you commit a violation, take the time to pay your fine rather than corrupt a policeman. When you purchase anything, make sure there is a receipt.

Fifth, downshift lifestyle. Let us spend to address our needs rather than our wants, so we can save. Another sad fact in our country is our low savings rate. We know low savings result in low investment funds to fuel economic activity. I read a recent survey that shows that many students and employees spend beyond their means and readily and easily get into debt. I think the materialistic and throw-away culture has adversely affected our solid values of economy and thrift.

Sixth, encourage our friends and relatives abroad to invest in our country. We hope the government creates the infrastructure to make it easy for them to invest here. We know that our country is kept afloat by remittances from overseas Filipino workers at a high social cost to their families. Investments from rich Filipinos abroad, on the other hand, could have only positive impact as seen in the experience of India. There, they have spurred creation of whole industries and plenty of jobs.

Finally, I think this is a season for patriotism for all Filipinos. This means for the rich to keep their dollars in the country and not stash them away in other countries. It also means creating jobs here so that we can create a bigger middle class. They can begin to introduce a culture of sharing, not through doleouts, but by creating real jobs and encouraging productivity. It also means for conflicting groups to focus their energies in helping rather than dissipating resources.

I think what I have written is a wish list. Indeed, there is much we can do. Stay idealistic and let us work together to get the country we deserve.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

PEOPLE at WORK

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

'How can we survive the fiscal crisis?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
For the Anxious Person at Work

I AM AN ASSISTANT branch manager of a leading bank. Recently, the headlines of Philippine Daily Inquirer warned of an impending fiscal crisis. Despite our economic woes, my wife and I have decided to stick it out and raise our two children in our country. Many of my siblings have already migrated to the United States. Is this decision of ours correct and practical? As an ordinary citizen, what can we do to help our country and ensure a bright future for our children?

Worried Parent

I was equally concerned when I read the article on the country's fiscal crisis. I understood that a fiscal crisis is similar to a family crisis where the family spends much more than what it earns and therefore is deep in debt. But I will not despair or give up hope. As a change consultant, I realize that it is the awareness of stark realities like these that can provide us the energy to institute change. This fact will allow us to come together as a nation and address our problems in unity.

So, what to do? First, have the proper attitude. Remain calm and positive; know that every problem has a solution. To define and recognize the problem is to move towards its resolution. It takes time for us Pinoys to move from passivity and indifference to action. This could be a moment of truth when we realize that our individualistic, "island" mentality will not work. We have to unite as a country, going beyond our parochial and selfish interests.

Second, pray for our leaders, both political and economic leaders in government as well as in the private sector, to search for a balanced solution to the problem. We are people of faith who strongly believe in the power of prayer. Why a balanced solution? It is important that leaders take a "systems" view in addressing the problem, so that the solutions do not result in deeper and much more difficult problems. For example, a simplistic response to the energy crisis years ago resulted in a mothballed nuclear plant and huge debt payments. Personally, I believe the best response could be developed after multi-sectoral consultations are done.

Third, do our best at work. Let us increase our productivity at work. It is sad to note that based on recent studies, our productivity as a nation has dropped considerably to the level of Pakistan and our Asean neighbors have overtaken us. Our relatively low productivity, in combination with other fac-

HOW CAN/ B13

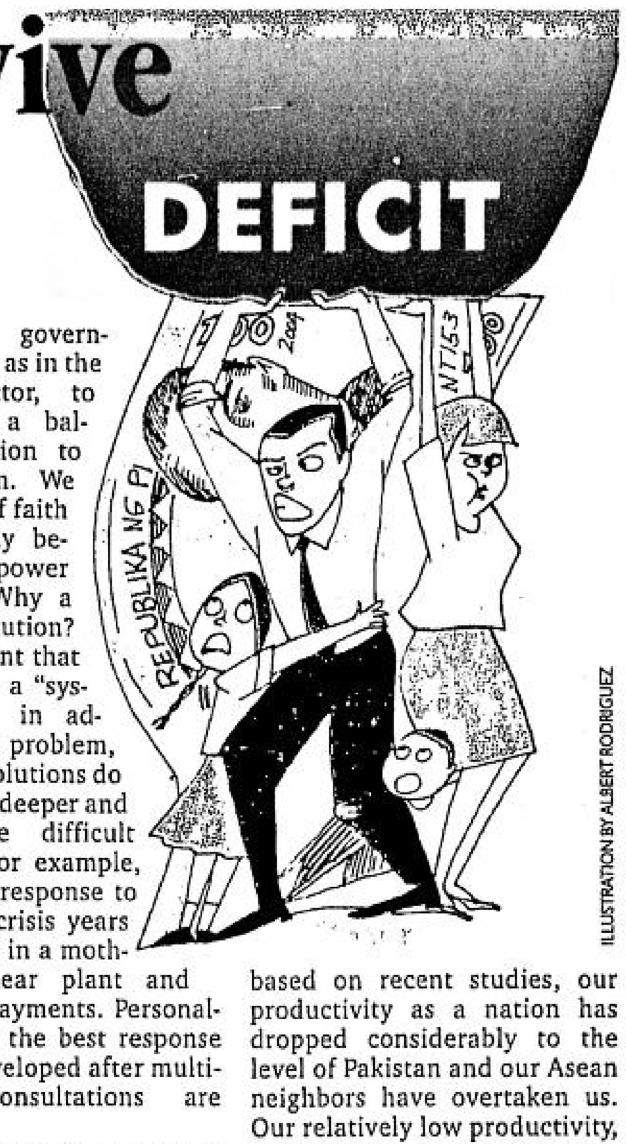


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Ways to stop demotivation at work

By Doug Hissong

HIGHLY motivated employees are certainly a key to a successful organization. But demotivation too often occurs in employees over time. New employees are generally highly motivated. But why are so many long-service employees cynical, negative, apathetic, perhaps coasting until retirement? And they should be making such great contributions because of all their experience. They have just as much talent as the young go-getters, and they used to be go-getters themselves, but something has changed.

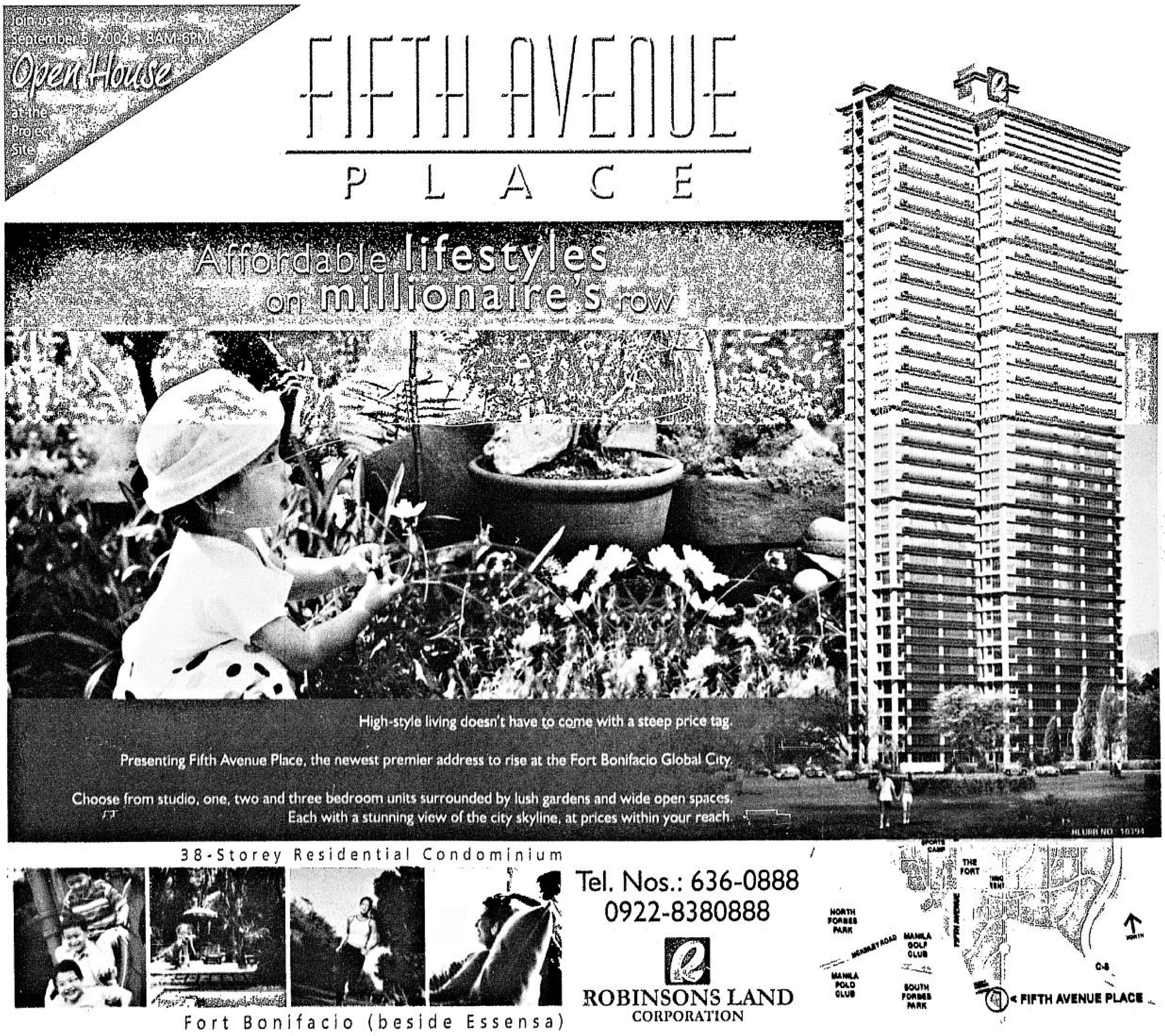
Not all employees suffer this problem. It's not an inevitable consequence of aging or experience. Some employees remain highly motivated until they retire, which is as it should be. The fact that not all employees become demotivated gives hope, and may provide clues for solving, or at least lessening, this problem. What could possibly cause an employee to lose his motivation as his career progresses? Here are some possibilities.

Jerk bosses

New employees tend to be somewhat in awe of their bosses. They don't know how the boss got there or much about him, but they treat him with respect. But the recent hire may soon find out that his boss doesn't know much about, or have much appreciation for, the work he's doing. He may start to wonder what's really important to his boss. And this relates to performance appraisal, since this boss is the individual having the most input in evaluating his performance. He may wonder what criteria the boss measures him against. Is he rated on how much he's like his boss?

A favorite is when the go-getter works his tail off and puts in lots of overtime to get a piece of work done on time, only to have his boss sit on it for a week before finding a chance to give it his superficial half-hour review. And it's even

HOW TO/ B13



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LALAINE Vergara, all smiles for her Filipino fans

WITH *Manang* at Remedios Circle in Malate

Lovin' Lalaine

Lizzie Maguire's erstwhile Pinay best friend is living the charmed and flipside life

Text and photos by Maria Lalaine B. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

LALAINE Vergara—shoulder-length and layered dark brown hair, brown stretch shirt, white bohemian skirt and red Converse sneakers, turquoise-and-brown bead bracelet and silver rings, saunters into the restaurant quietly.

She does have a funky sense of style.

Lalaine scans the restaurant and quickly proceeds to a corner table with her mom and uncle in tow. Only 17 and 5'3 in height, she has a cute-as-a-button nose, penetrating eyes

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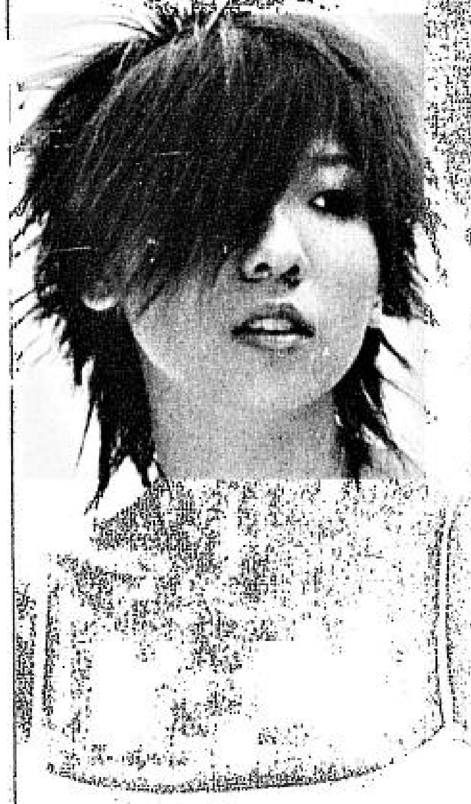

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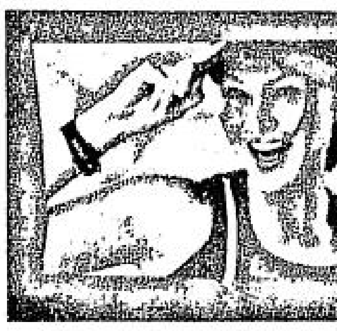

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BIRTHDAY greetings to Manny Del Rosario, Joel Tantoco, Jenni Epperson and [illegible] Mont

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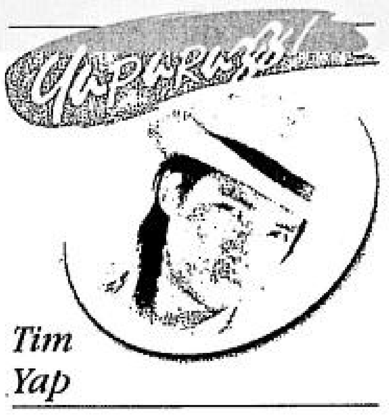

Tim Yap

"I go around New York clubs wearing a tiara. They call me princess," MTV VJ **Sarah Meier** tells me while we shop for some affordable bling-bling at SM City Cebu.

"A steal at P300!" She tries it on and she looks like a million bucks. This princess can put a garbage bag on and look like a high-couture model.

Lately she's been on a roll, hosting new shows for her home music network, like "MTV Supahstar." She's also very much involved with the Style Awards, by virtue of her hosting the "Fashionista" show.

I recently dropped by her birthday bash at V, and true enough, I bowed and curtsied to the princess, who was oh-so-pretty in pink, blushing with her constant companion, **Banjo Albano**. Somewhere nearby was **Borgy Manotoc** and his new flame, **Ornussa Cadness.**

I look around and I spot other couples—and former couples—all within the same vicinity. My, oh my—Manila is getting smaller! Fun, fun, fun... Party, party, party!

Judging from the crowd, Tuesday at V has never been the same again since R&B took over—and I say that in a good light. The earlier parts of the week used to be considered "dead," so in a way **Johnny Verse** and company saved this side of the nightlife. There's **Stephen Ku**, whose voice greets the partyphiles as they enter V's vestibules, which are always very warm and welcoming.

Beautiful people love beautiful people, and this is where they bounce off to eye each other before they proceed to the next level. Wink, wink.

Nothing is more potent than so much sexual tension in a room. Whereas house music is about "love," R&B is about "sex." Or being sexy and sexual—which is also a good thing, if you ask me.

EN-CHANTING QUEEN. Mariko Jacinto

CELINE Gabriel and BJ Palanca

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After V, I usually go straight to Baclaran Church as part of my devotion to the Perpetual Help. My week is not complete without saying a little prayer for my loved ones (speaking of which—hey Mom, happy birthday! Love ya! Kiss, kiss!) and lifting up my wishes and desires to the One up there.

And then I go back to V.

Superheroes ball

My partyphile friends who are sick of bar-hopping (as if!) are opting to entertain at home. Pepsi girl **Celine Lopez** just threw an intimate birthday bash for the Super man in her life . That's not me, but **Manny Del Rosario**, who was in a Kryptonite-proof costume paired with jeans.

Celine's party flat was all of a sudden transformed into the Hall of Justice with almost all my friends in super spandex! I think they all raided the children's department of SM Department Store, as bulges came out of nowhere. Some opted to wear masks, which made it look more adult bondage than kiddie superhero—all in the name of escape. After that, I escaped to the Mile Long strip to check out the action.

Smirnoff threw a party to launch their premium vodka with a delightful DJ lineup from hard house to upbeat chill. A smattering of celebs filled the Mile Long party spots. Of late, Halo has been attracting the house crazy crowd (with Thursdays as their "mixed" party night) while Club V's hip hop De Luxe nights, managed by Kingpin and Links (**Chris Petersen, Avi Siwa, Marc Nelson** and friends) are drawing in the posh R&B afficionados.

Higher level

Sexy scenesters **Richie** and **Faith Lavarro** threw a party at 9696 Kamagong St.(a.k.a. the club called Dusk) for friends who are moving to Prague, while **David Jacob** had a party at his place as a last hurrah before he leaves for his next base, Hong Kong. The scene will miss you, DJ DJ! "Take it to a higher level," wherever you go!

CHRIS Aldaba invites you for a chug.

R&B chick Rachel dares you to [illegible] with it

MANILA HILTONS. [illegible] and Dara [illegible]

V-it boy Anton del Rosario [illegible] on the floor

[illegible] and Maiko Evan

TUESDAY TANDEM. [illegible] and Stephen Ku

Photos by Tim Yap

Lately, there has also been an influx of new spots that aim to satiate the partyphile's nocturnal cravings. The old Mustang is now Studio M (now a two-level club) and the Ayala Museum café is going to open soon. It looks really good from the outside.

Another one that has been my favorite of late (but I promised my friends not to share this bit of information, but I can't help it) is Struan and Tang's on Pasay Road. It's nice and intimate, with great and comfortable interiors, plus yummy dimsum and crazy yummy concoctions! Nothing less from the guy who brought in Paul Smith to this fashion-crazed town of ours. I'm talking about **Juan Miguel Ongsiako**, as if you didn't know.

On certain nights, you'll even catch him behind the bar. Try the Strawberry cheesecake margarita or the almond chai margarita, and I guarantee you'll get addicted.

It's so good you'd want to wear a tiara on your head while sipping it.

Hanging out with Hoobastank

By Diego Rosano P. Mapa
2bU! Contributor

Some questions for one of the world's hottest bands—and some very cool, straightforward answers

Hoobastank's "Reason Tour" rocked Manila at the Folk Arts Theater last Aug. 17. Ironically, it was a seating affair, and it took away half the fun. However, the fans still got away jumping and bumping at each other despite the obstacles, and the suppression developed into a massive sing-along.

It was a roaring crowd on the karaoke mic, dominated by a girl audience (who seemed to have dragged their boyfriends to scream at frontman Doug Robb), singing hits from their self-titled debut album, like "Crawling in the Dark," "Running Away," and their newer singles—"Out of Control," and of course, Hoobastank's signature power ballad—"The Reason."

The latter, with its catchy intro piano-guitar and sorry first line hook ("I'm not a perfect person..."), is one of the fastest-rising singles to date, and it is being played in every pop station.

"Many people think that we've gone soft in our new record because of 'Reason,' but we've got a softer song called 'To be with You' in our first album," says guitarist Dan Estrin.

I threw a few questions at Hoobastank at their press conference at the Manila Hotel. The band, minus Doug Robb (who was absent due to a sore throat), was very straightforward, very cool in answering questions, though they looked tired, having just got off the plane an hour earlier.

Dan, bass player Markku Lappalainen and drummer Chris Hesse all had bleached streaks and were real giants up front. They were very frank in answering questions, but quite touchy about misunderstood issues, especially Dan.

What's Hoobastank all about, and how can I use it in my everyday vocabulary?

Markku: It's just us four guys who have been together for more than 10 years. We first started with a little bizarre approach to music, not too commercial, I suppose. If you want to know what the word means, it's "your butt stinks." If you're in an elevator, just say hoobastank!

Why play rock music?

Chris: I think there's no particular reason, it's just the music we enjoy.

What would you be doing if you weren't into music?

M: I'm into cars and motorcycles. Not really racing, but driving fast.

C: I wouldn't really know, I can't think of anything else I could do.

Dan: Before the band took off, I was working with kids in different schools for five to six years. I'd probably still be doing that. I also would love to work in the music industry, like producing.

What are your songs about? (Dead silence. Then the band laughs.)

M: Uhm... Doug, question!

D: We're usually asked about what the songs are about, and those questions are usually for Doug. Being in the band, I know I should know what the songs are about, and Doug is asked these questions all the time and I'm sitting right next to him. And this is the part where I daydream, so I never really hear what he's saying. I just assume they're all about women.

First rock album ever bought?

M: Megadeth's "So Far So Good, So What" and Guns and Roses' "Appetite for Destruction." Both on cassette, of course.

C: "The Best of Air Supply"

D: "Appetite..." and I still have it. I didn't buy the tape, I bought the vinyl.

Do the songs in "The Reason" have a common theme, or are they related to your first album?

M: Lyrically, that's a Doug question. Musically, we just make a batch of songs and we pick best of the best.

D: Yeah, we just pick the songs which are the strongest.

Which countries do you enjoy touring?

M: It's so hard to see the place or country you're in. Like, we just got off the plane an hour ago, and we're here, and it's hard to get a good view of the city. We've got a lot of success in Japan, we've been there four times. Hometown (LA) is really nice.

C: My favorite place is home.

D: We got to spend time in Singapore, and I thought it was very pretty. I liked the shows in Japan. I'm not really a huge fan, but I like being there to perform.

What part did your producer, Howard Benson ("P.O.D.," "Crystal Method"), play in recording your songs?

C: We were very prepared before entering the studio. He had a lot to do with "Out of Control." We played the song in one way, then he broke the song into pieces with Pro Tools and he showed it to us in another way.

MINUS ONE. Markku, Chris, and Dan. Doug Robb was absent from the press con, no thanks to a sore throat.

There's a rising genre called "emo" punk, rock etc. Do you get classified as such? How do you feel about getting typecast to a certain label? Do you get that from journalists?

C: We try not to be exciting. We're just a basic rock and roll group.

D: Well, journalists really come up with stupid names always, searching for brand new stuff especially in the U.S., which are just full of trash. We're just simple.

Which artist would you love to play with?

D: I really like playing with bands with huge crowds. We've played with Linkin Park and Incubus. But if ever I could choose whom to play with, I'd love to play with the Foo Fighters and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. I totally respect these bands.

M: Yeah!

What's your favorite song?

M: A song in our first album called "Pieces."

C: "Crawling in the Dark," because by the time we get to that song, that's when the crowd is ready to go!

D: Same here, 'cause it has the best crowd response.

What's the first thing you do after playing?

C: I usually sit down and grab a towel and dry myself.

D: Yeah, we just grab a towel 'cause we're dripping wet, and it's gross. Go back to the van or hotel; talk, watch some TV, drink some water, wine or whatever's there. Sometimes hang out with the fans.

Did you expect the success of "The Reason"?

D: I had no idea what to expect. All I know is that it's just a pretty song.

Lovin' Lalaine

From page C1

and an arresting wide smile.

"Hi Lalaine, I'm Lalaine!," I greet her. "Oh hi!" Lalaine replies graciously, all smiles.

I tease her for not informing me of her new project here in the Philippines. I am introduced to her mom Lilia and we all take photographs, happy that we two Lalaines have finally met.

Fun and charismatic

We have been e-mailing regularly for almost a year now after I did two earlier articles on her. This was before the publicity mill had began making much of the fact that she was a Filipino who made it good in Hollywood via the Disney hit TV show "Lizzie McGuire" where she played Miranda Sanchez, Lizzie's Mexican best friend.

When the show wrapped production, Lalaine did an independent film, "Promised Land," guested on "Buffy The Vampire Slayer," appeared on a Disney TV movie "You Wish!" and embarked on her first album where she was both songwriter and singer.

According to Alan Sacks, the album's executive producer, "Lalaine is relatable and fun. She has that charismatic quality. And she writes her own songs."

And then came the offer from the Philippines to host a new show, "Flipside." The show will explore the various facets of Philippine culture, such as food, fashion, film, music and sports, while at the same time highlighting Filipino traditions and values.

The show will air on the Living Asia Channel starting this October in the Philippines and North America, with CCI Asia Group and Sari-Sari co-producing.

According to CCI Asia's Ludette Rosales, Lalaine was the only choice for the role. The timing couldn't be more perfect, a rare opportunity to reconnect to her Filipino roots in full glory. The first few episodes of Flipside were taped in LA as Lalaine prepared for her journey back home as a young adult.

Inherently Pinoy

So how did she prepare for the show? Well, Lalaine says she didn't.

"My being Filipino, it's just inherent in me. It's awesome. I don't know what to expect. I just have to have a good mood every day for the shoot because I can be a pain sometimes," she says. Lalaine is also happy that songs from her album "Inside Story," released in the States, will be used in the show.

Mom Lilia gets teary-eyed when she talks about her daughter's new show.

"I get emotional. But I'm very happy. I just want her to connect with our culture," she explains.

Lalaine was born in California but lived in the Philippines for a while. She was five when her family permanently moved to the States. There, she quickly made her mark in show business. She bagged the Cosette/Eponine role in the Broadway musical "Les Miserables" and starred in countless commercials before joining the show that introduced her to a bigger audience and to us—"Lizzie McGuire."

Despite growing up in Los Angeles, Lalaine was never less than Filipino.

"Our Filipino food, so fattening but nothing beats it! I love going to Goldilocks and Chowking in LA," she says.

Chicken *adobo*, *sinigang* and *ensaymada* are her favorites. "I cooked beef steak once, it turned out good even though I don't really cook," she shares proudly.

She also enjoys dancing the *tinikling* and looks up to her grandfather when it comes to being hospitable and arranging parties. "I'm also very close to my Mom and still have to follow curfews," she says.

Humble, smart, mature

Lalaine's uncle, Mel Vergara, says that despite her success at a young age, Lalaine has been humble, smart and mature beyond her years. "She really finds time to say hello to her young fans," he notes.

Lalaine is aware that she's a role model to many young people. While she admits she's still young and is bound to commit mistakes, she strives to do things right.

"I LOVE sports, eating, reading and embellishing my clothes with buttons, glitters and beads."

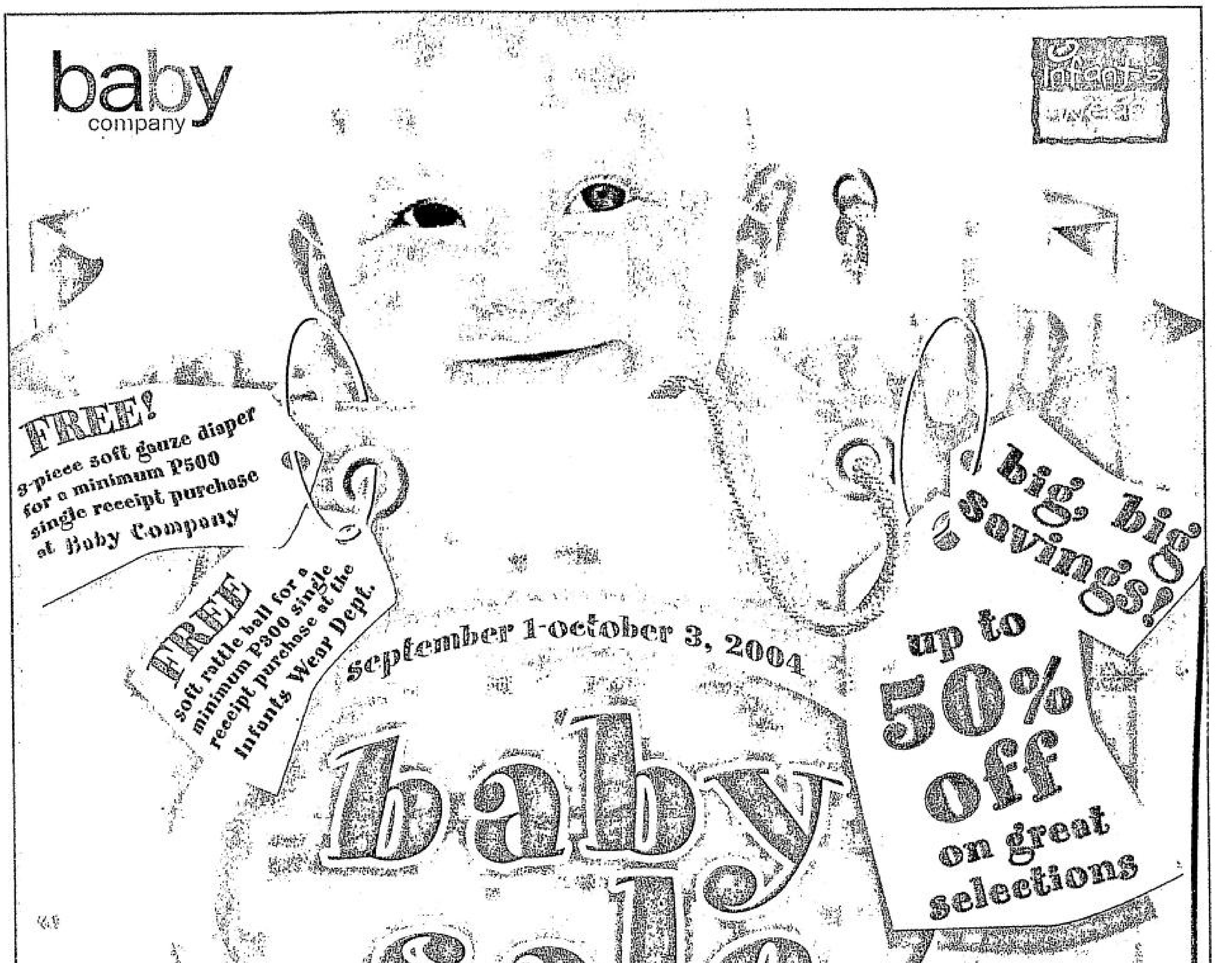
Her uncle says his niece is allowed to have a boyfriend. Lalaine has been paired with Clayton Snyder aka Ethan Craft, her coworker at "Lizzie McGuire," but she says they're just close. Her local crush? Richard Gutierrez, whom she finds really cute.

The last time Lalaine was in the Philippines was in 1995. Now, she's amazed by the changes she sees all around and looks forward to going to Batangas, her mom's hometown, and meeting their relatives.

In the meantime, she's raring to go shopping, which wouldn't be a problem to her as she can speak and understand Tagalog and make "*tawad*."

Breaking into the local scene is also a possibility, but she plans to continue with her singing and acting career and win an Oscar or a Grammy in the future.

"Life is short," she says. No matter what I do, I just have to be happy. I am glad that my family and friends keep me grounded. I am just thankful to God for all the blessings. And I'm always proud to be a Filipino!"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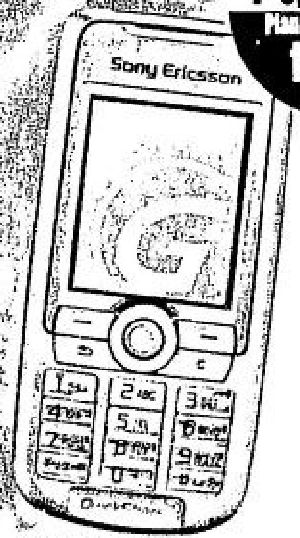

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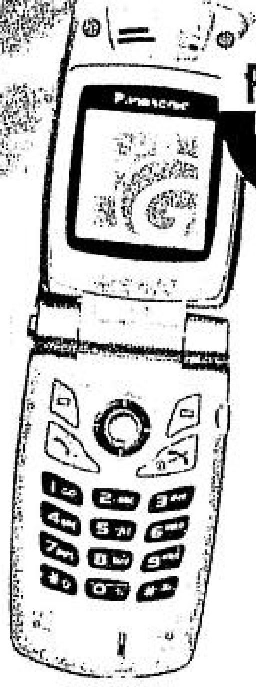

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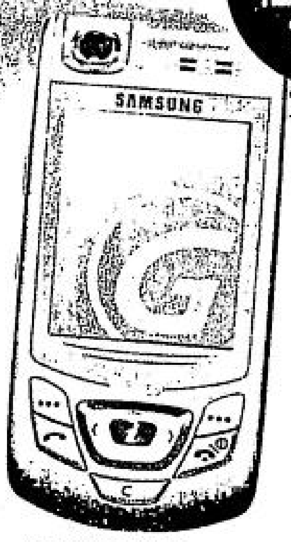

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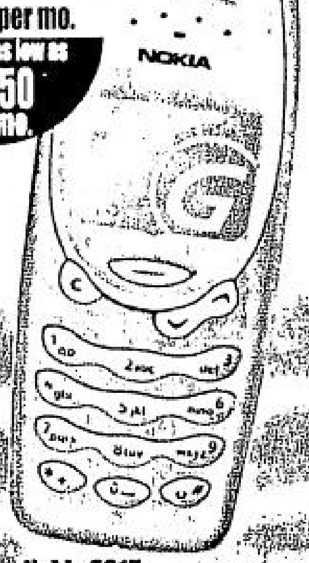

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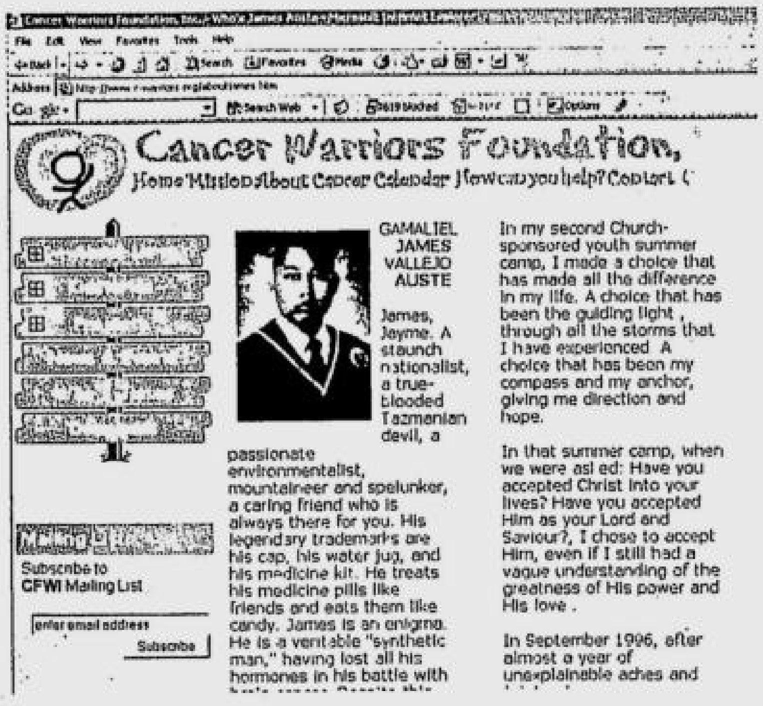
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Cancer Warriors Foundation,

Home Mission About Cancer Calendar How can you help? Contact

GAMALIEL JAMES VALLEJO AUSTE

James, Jayme. A staunch nationalist, a true-blooded Tazmanian devil, a passionate environmentalist, mountaineer and spelunker, a caring friend who is always there for you. His legendary trademarks are his cap, his water jug, and his medicine kit. He treats his medicine pills like friends and eats them like candy. James is an enigma. He is a veritable "synthetic man," having lost all his hormones in his battle with

In my second Church-sponsored youth summer camp, I made a choice that has made all the difference in my life. A choice that has been the guiding light, through all the storms that I have experienced. A choice that has been my compass and my anchor, giving me direction and hope.

In that summer camp, when we were asked: Have you accepted Christ into your lives? Have you accepted Him as your Lord and Saviour?, I chose to accept Him, even if I still had a vague understanding of the greatness of His power and His love.

In September 1996, after almost a year of unexplainable aches and

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Convinced that God gave him a second chance at life to do something for others, James Auste started 'Bike for Life,' which raises money for kids with cancer

Cross-country biking for a cause

By Katrina Natasha Denoga
2bU! Correspondent

WHAT do you do after you find out you've got a brain tumor at age 19? Cry about the unfairness of it all or go hop on a bike and raise money for other people with cancer?

The latter option might seem too unbelievable, but that's exactly what James Auste, now 27, did.

In 1996, James was told that he had two rare types of seemingly inoperable brain tumors. On top of that, because of his cancer, his body stopped

CROSS-COUNTRY/D3

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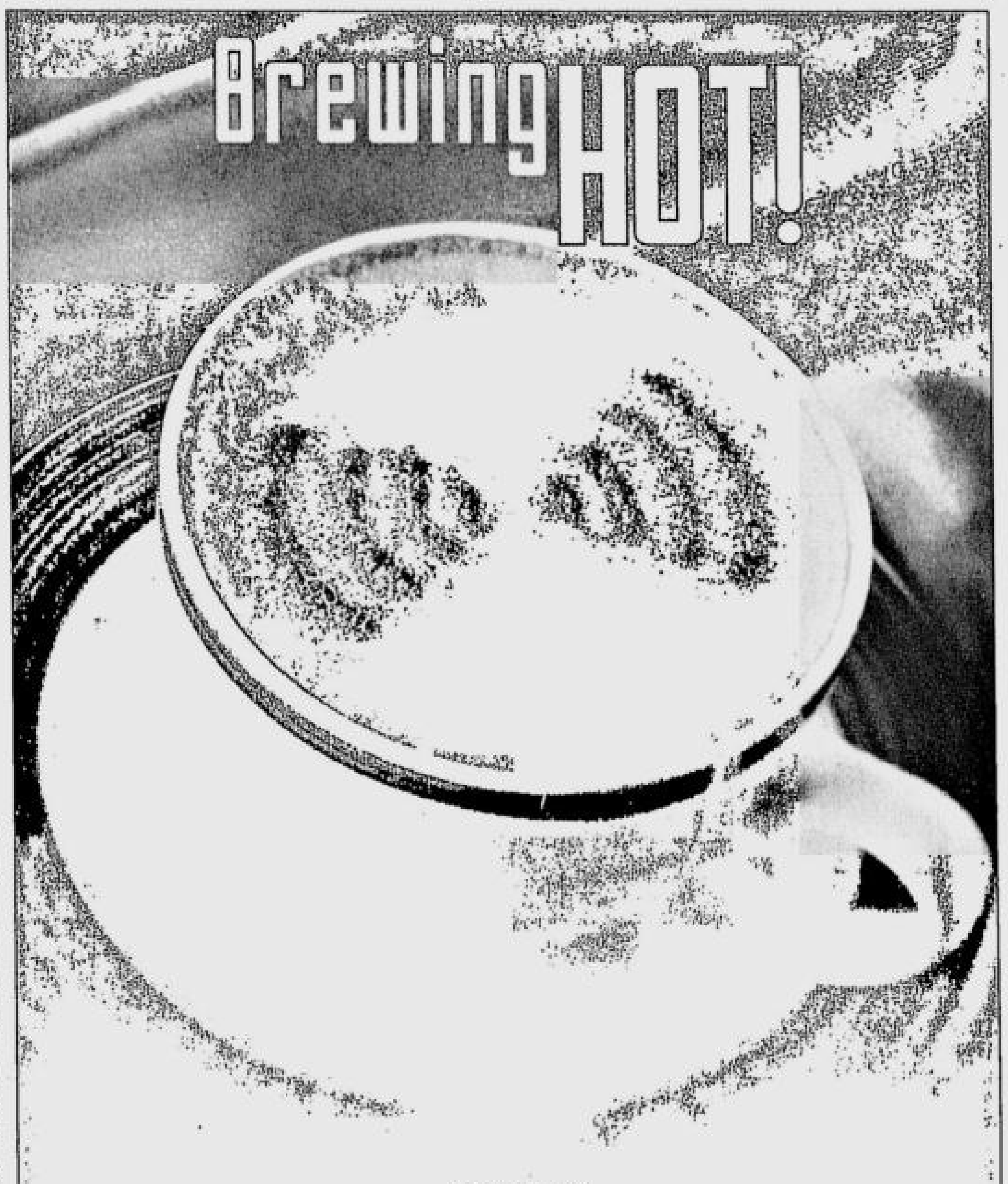

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We Are The Champions	101084
Ain't No Mountain High Enough	101071
Stop! In The Name of Love	101082
INDIES	
Cattski - Palm of My Hand	101126
Death Threat - Ano Ba Pati Ako Ba	101128
Drip - To You (Morse Remix)	101096
Kapatid - No Help at All	101129
Razorback - Puerto Jam	101116
JOKES	
Andrew E. - Phone Rap 1	101045
Andrew E. - Phone Rap 2	101046
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Help (for more info on new features)	HELP

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VIA WAP	Click on *Amazing Stuff* link from SMART wapsite then select *Caller Ringtunes*
VIA WEB	Listen B4 U Download! Log on to *http://ring.smart.com.ph/smart*

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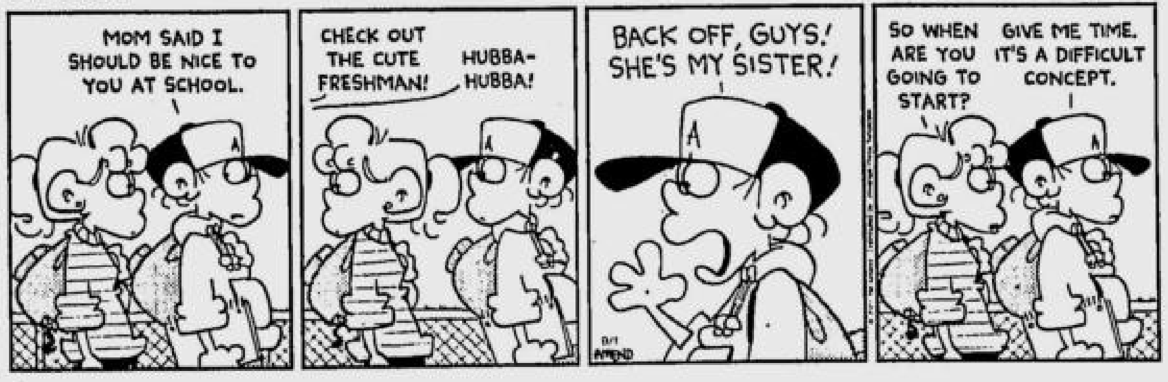
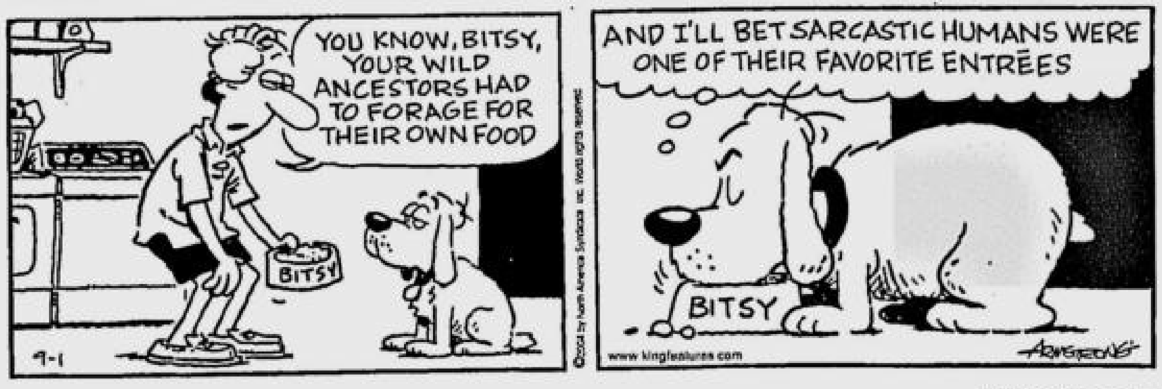
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MOM SAID I SHOULD BE NICE TO YOU AT SCHOOL.
CHECK OUT THE CUTE FRESHMAN!
HUBBA-HUBBA!
BACK OFF, GUYS! SHE'S MY SISTER!
8/1 AMEND
SO WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO START?
GIVE ME TIME. IT'S A DIFFICULT CONCEPT.

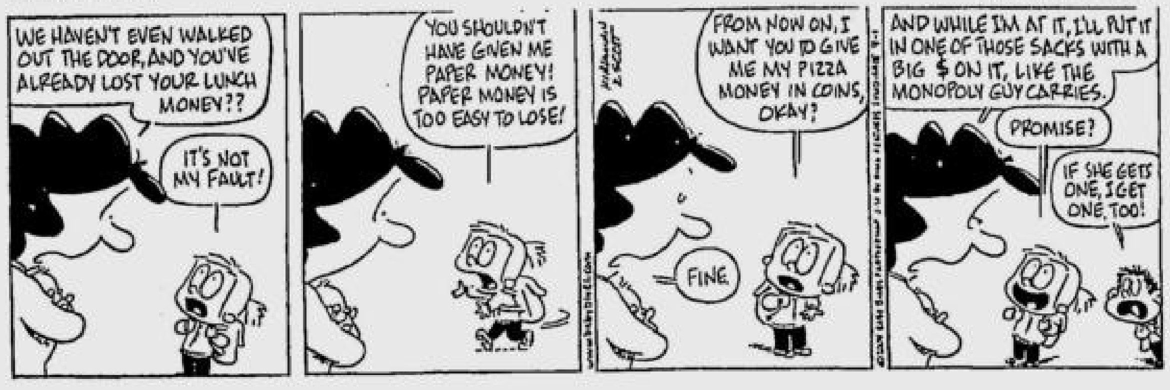
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YOU KNOW, BITSY, YOUR WILD ANCESTORS HAD TO FORAGE FOR THEIR OWN FOOD
BITSY
9-1
AND I'LL BET SARCASTIC HUMANS WERE ONE OF THEIR FAVORITE ENTRÉES
BITSY
www.kingfeatures.com
ARMSTRONG

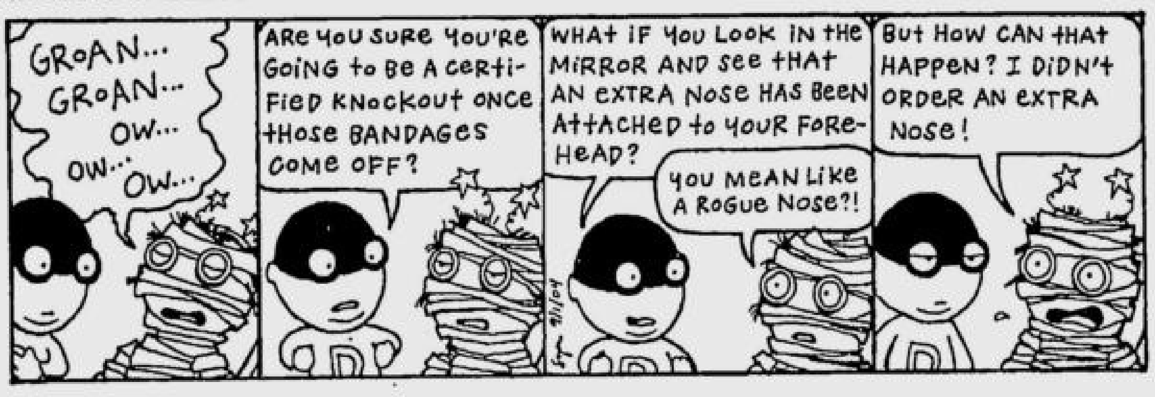
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WE HAVEN'T EVEN WALKED OUT THE DOOR, AND YOU'VE ALREADY LOST YOUR LUNCH MONEY??
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN ME PAPER MONEY! PAPER MONEY IS TOO EASY TO LOSE!
FROM NOW ON, I WANT YOU TO GIVE ME MY PIZZA MONEY IN COINS, OKAY?
FINE
AND WHILE I'M AT IT, I'LL PUT IT IN ONE OF THOSE SACKS WITH A BIG $ ON IT, LIKE THE MONOPOLY GUY CARRIES.
PROMISE?
IF SHE GETS ONE, I GET ONE, TOO!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


GROAN... GROAN... OW... OW... OW...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE GOING TO BE A CERTIFIED KNOCKOUT ONCE THOSE BANDAGES COME OFF?
WHAT IF YOU LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND SEE THAT AN EXTRA NOSE HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO YOUR FOREHEAD?
YOU MEAN LIKE A ROGUE NOSE?!
BUT HOW CAN THAT HAPPEN? I DIDN'T ORDER AN EXTRA NOSE!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very brave and fearless. You march to your own drummer. Obstacles do not deter you. You're very professional when it comes to your job. You give it your best—and your best is tops. You're also quite passionate, sexually speaking. Increased solitude this year will help you learn something important. **Birthdate of:** Rocky Marciano, boxer; Gloria Estefan, singer; Lily Tomlin, comic actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel increasingly happy and content at home with your domestic situation. You're at peace with family members. You're also very keen to decorate where you live.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A new friendship could begin now. You find it easy to be friendly with daily colleagues, siblings and everyone you meet. Naturally, your good feelings will just come back to you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a lovely day to shop, especially for art objects or beautiful items. You want to buy things for yourself and for loved ones. You might also spend money for pleasure.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're at peace with the world today. You feel benevolent, kind and warm to everyone you meet. You're particularly attracted to intelligent, high-minded and wise people.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Although you're focused on financial issues right now, you feel very generous to others. You might want to help somebody in need. Alternatively, you can do good business deals with the government and large institutions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a lovely day to enjoy the company of friends. All activities will be successful: conferences, meetings, reunions and social get-togethers.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): People are attracted to you today. They see you as lighthearted, kind and wise. Somebody will probably come to you asking for your advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a good day for financial enterprises, as well as everything connected with foreign investments, foreign countries, medicine, the law and publishing. Don't be afraid to think big.

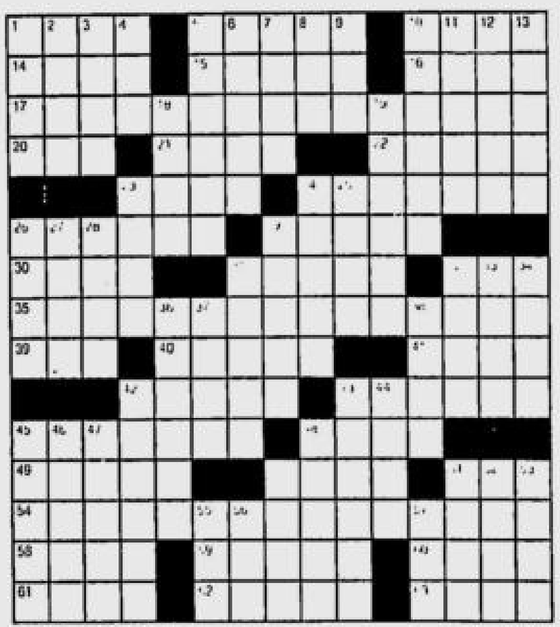
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're definitely on the receiving end of some goodies today! Inheritances, estates, favors, increased credit, reduced debt—something is a big gift for you now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're feeling friendly today. In particular, you're attracted to people who have a different background from yours. You want to learn more about life and the big, wide world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Things are extremely favorable both for your health and for your employment scene today. If you're looking for a job, you could score today or tomorrow. Everything supports you now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Romance is looking great! Something could light your fire. New love might begin. Existing relationships become cozy. Enjoy this sweet time. Your creative talents are very hot now.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

9/1/04

ACROSS

1 Factual information
5 Syrupy drink
10 Stuff to the gills
14 Historic periods
15 La Scala offering
16 Port of Yemen
17 Way out in front
20 Drivers lic. and such
21 Ages and ages
22 Inattentive period
23 Extol
24 Put in graph form
26 Phonies
29 The March King
30 Winged wader
31 Really reeked
32 West of old films
35 Stuck in second gear
39 __ now or never!
40 Pictures of illusion
41 Whit
42 Bleachers and benches
43 Threw in one's cards
45 Travel back and forth
48 Mollycoddle
49 Matisse or Rousseau
50 Mobile starter?
51 Kettle and Barker
54 Trailing
58 Glance over
59 Spout from the dais
60 Debate side
61 Buffalo bunch
62 Senegalese language
63 What's left

DOWN

1 Cold-cuts palace
2 Very dry
3 Puts a label on
4 Blond shade
5 Brimming with good cheer
6 Tip over
7 Poetic meadows
8 Mess up
9 Fathers
10 Most of Mali
11 Proficient
12 Tantalize
13 All over
18 Go at a gallop
19 49th state
23 For fear that
24 Dracula's title
25 Strung up
26 Vijay Singh's homeland
27 Be adjacent to
28 __ and tell
29 Mixes up
31 Ocean ray
32 Frame of mind
33 Date or room opener
34 Zounds!
36 Like rhymes and verses
37 October birthstone
38 Easter bloom
42 Maroon
43 Sire
44 Hautboy
45 __ kebab
46 From now on
47 Open a castle door
48 Mesa's cousin
50 Way off
51 Currycomb target
52 Dramatic divisions
53 Playlot
55 Boxer's stat
56 Mine extraction
57 Golf norm

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	T	O	R	■	B	O	M	B	■	T	H	E	Y
A	M	O	R	E	■	I	R	A	E	■	K	A	N	E
W	O	R	D	S	W	O	R	D	S	W	O	R	D	S
R	O	S	E	O	I	L	■	A	T	I	S	S	U	E
■	■	■	A	L	G	■	A	M	O	S	■	H	E	S
W	O	R	L	D	W	I	D	E	W	E	B	■	■	■
I	K	E	■	■	A	L	E	■	■	T	U	D	O	R
G	R	A	N	D	M	A	■	T	W	O	T	O	N	E
S	A	L	E	M	■	■	A	R	I	■	■	Z	E	N
■	■	■	W	I	L	D	W	I	L	D	W	E	S	T
F	A	D	■	T	U	R	N	■	L	E	I	■	■	■
E	D	W	A	R	D	I	■	F	O	R	E	A	R	M
W	E	E	W	I	L	L	I	E	W	I	N	K	I	E
E	L	L	E	■	U	L	N	A	■	D	E	I	S	T
R	A	T	S	■	M	S	G	T	■	E	R	N	E	S

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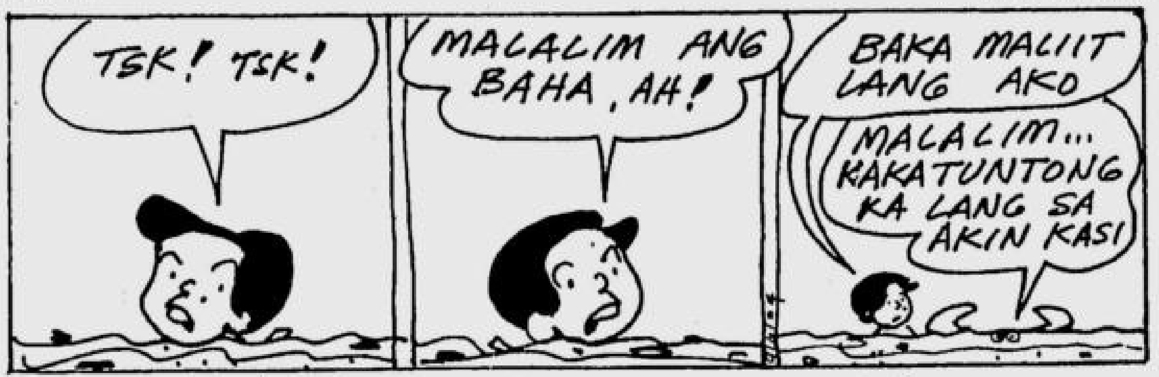
9/1/04

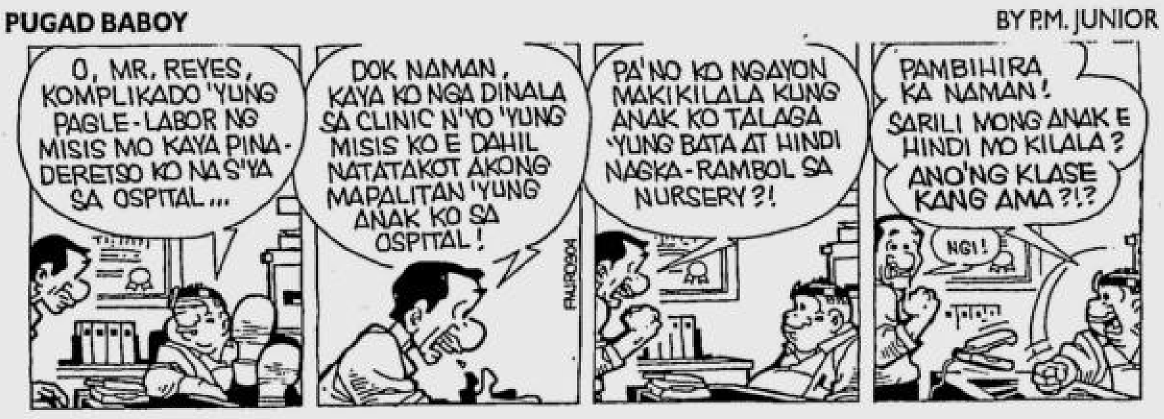
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TSK! TSK!
MALALIM ANG BAHA, AH!
BAKA MALIIT LANG AKO
MALALIM... KAKATUNTONG KA LANG SA AKIN KASI

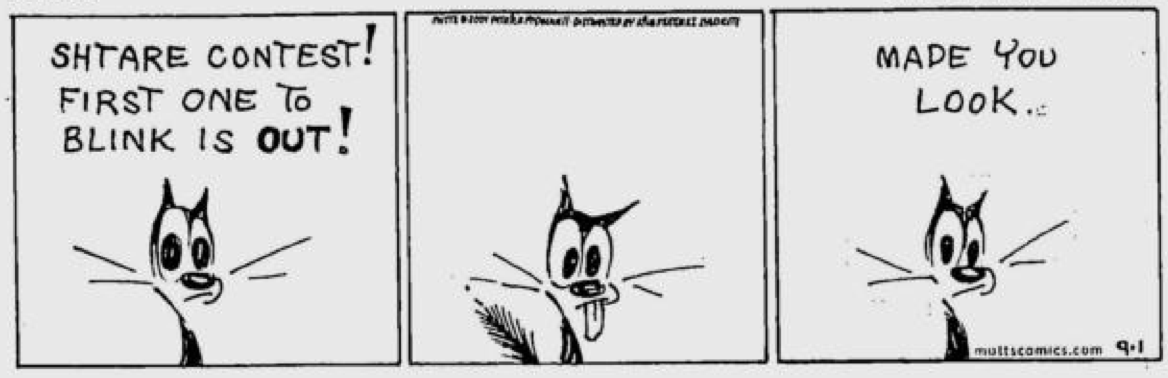
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, MR. REYES, KOMPLIKADO 'YUNG PAGLE-LABOR NG MISIS MO KAYA PINADERETSO KO NA S'YA SA OSPITAL...
DOK NAMAN, KAYA KO NGA DINALA SA CLINIC N'YO 'YUNG MISIS KO E DAHIL NATATAKOT AKONG MAPALITAN 'YUNG ANAK KO SA OSPITAL!
PA'NO KO NGAYON MAKIKILALA KUNG ANAK KO TALAGA 'YUNG BATA AT HINDI NAGKA-RAMBOL SA NURSERY?!
PAMBIHIRA KA NAMAN! SARILI MONG ANAK E HINDI MO KILALA? ANO'NG KLASE KANG AMA?!?
NGI!

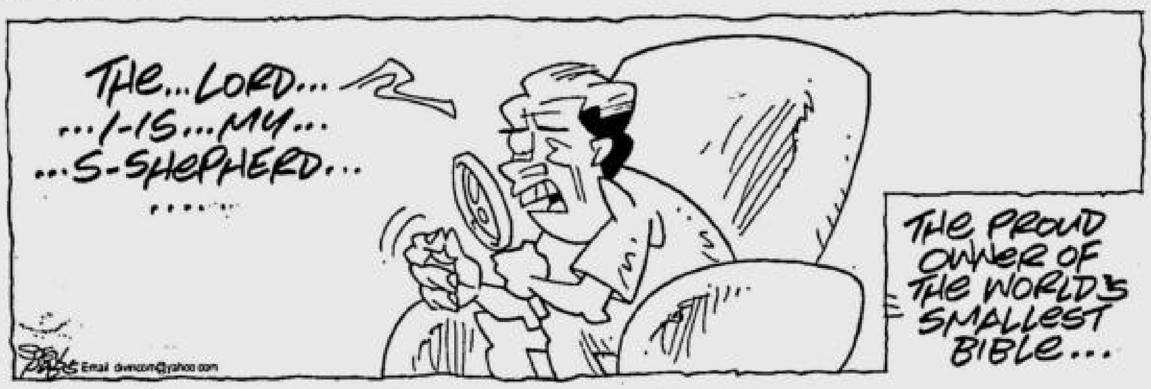
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHTARE CONTEST! FIRST ONE TO BLINK IS OUT!
MADE YOU LOOK..
muttscomics.com 9-1

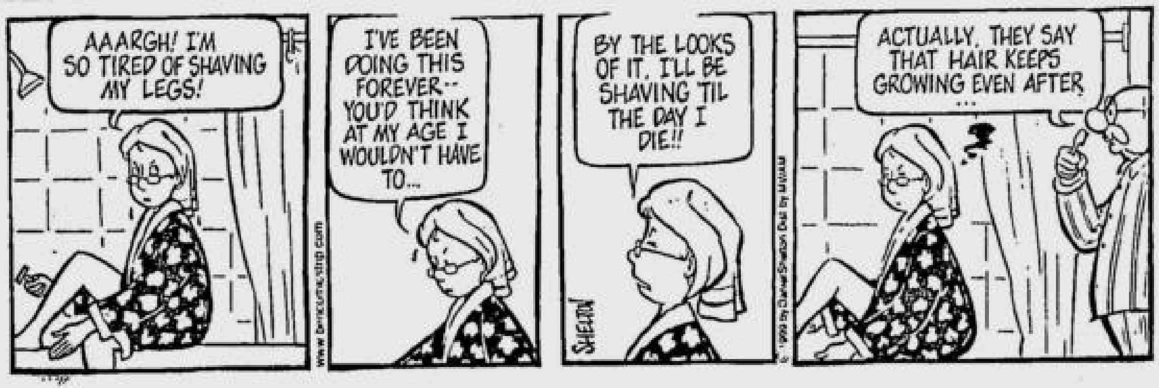
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE...LORD... ...I-IS...MY... ...S-SHEPHERD...
THE PROUD OWNER OF THE WORLD'S SMALLEST BIBLE...
Email divincom@yahoo.com

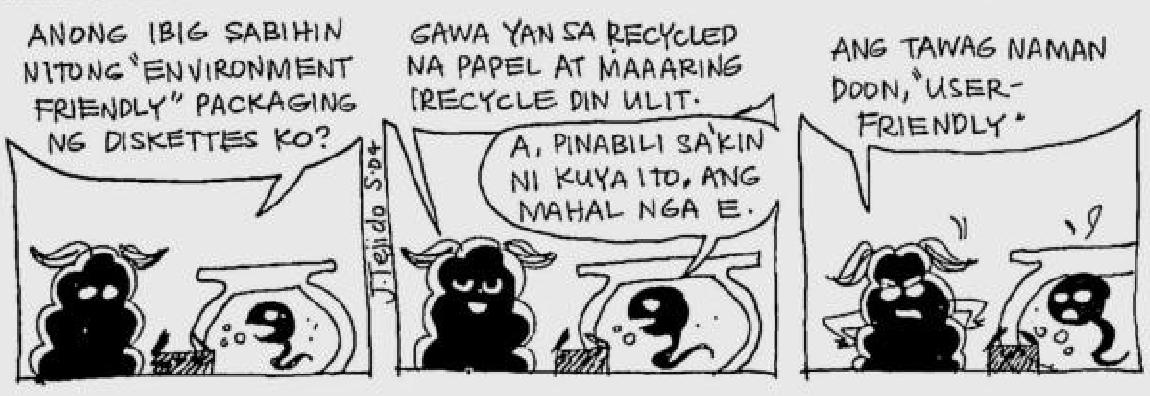
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAARGH! I'M SO TIRED OF SHAVING MY LEGS!
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOREVER-- YOU'D THINK AT MY AGE I WOULDN'T HAVE TO...
BY THE LOOKS OF IT, I'LL BE SHAVING TIL THE DAY I DIE!!
ACTUALLY, THEY SAY THAT HAIR KEEPS GROWING EVEN AFTER ...
SHELTON

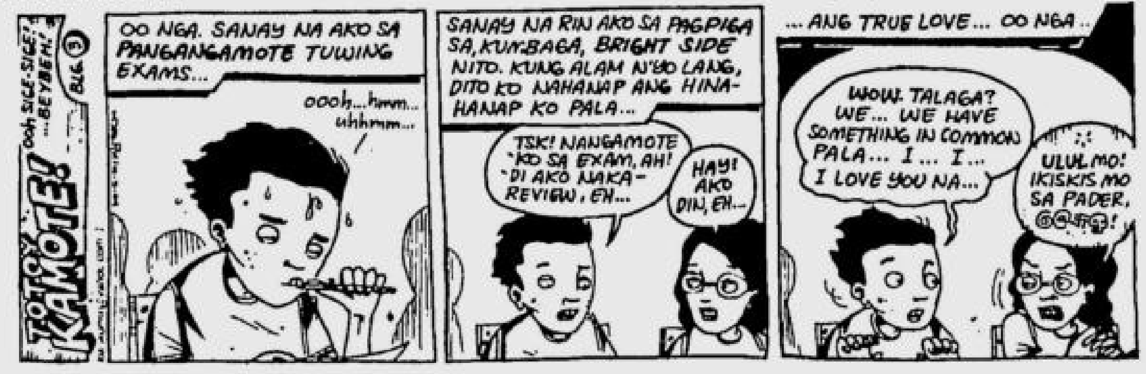
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANONG IBIG SABIHIN NITONG "ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY" PACKAGING NG DISKETTES KO?
GAWA YAN SA RECYCLED NA PAPEL AT MAAARING IRECYCLE DIN ULIT.
A, PINABILI SA'KIN NI KUYA ITO, ANG MAHAL NGA E.
ANG TAWAG NAMAN DOON, "USER-FRIENDLY"
J. Tejido 9.04

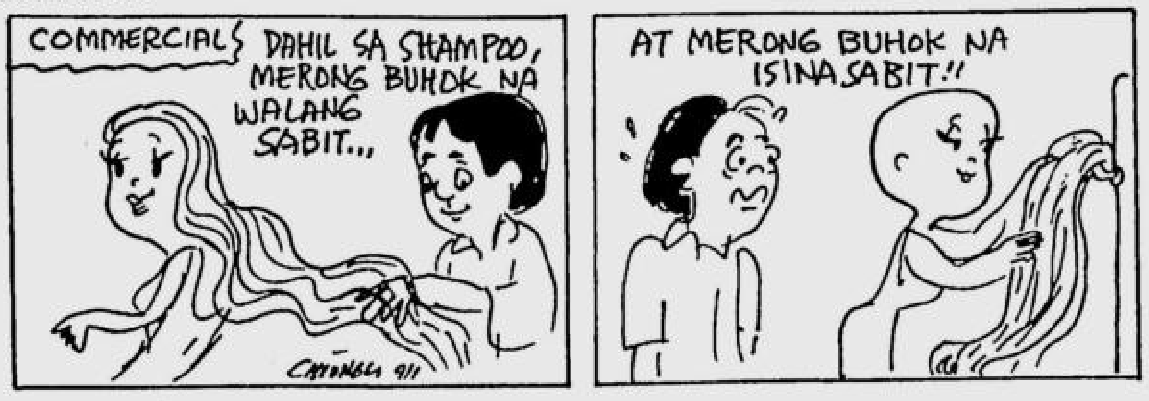
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TOTOY KAMOTE!
OOH SIGE-SIGE! ...BEYBEH!
OO NGA. SANAY NA AKO SA PANGANGAMOTE TUWING EXAMS...
oooh...hmm... uhhmm...
SANAY NA RIN AKO SA PAGPIGA SA, KUMBAGA, BRIGHT SIDE NITO. KUNG ALAM N'YO LANG, DITO KO NAHANAP ANG HINAHANAP KO PALA...
TSK! NANGAMOTE 'KO SA EXAM, AH! 'DI AKO NAKA-REVIEW, EH...
HAY! AKO DIN, EH...
...ANG TRUE LOVE... OO NGA...
WOW. TALAGA? WE... WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON PALA... I... I... I LOVE YOU NA...
ULUL MO! IKISKIS MO SA PADER.

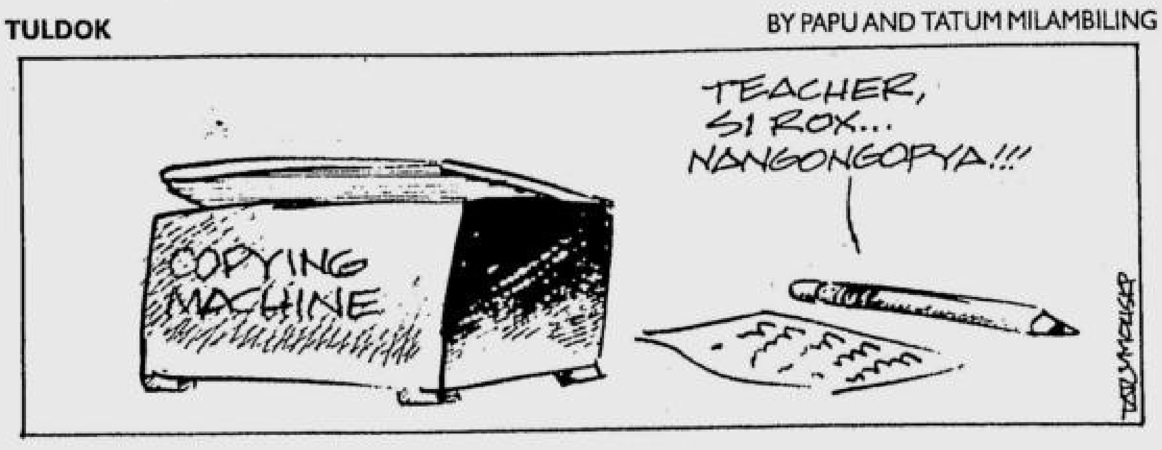
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


COMMERCIAL
DAHIL SA SHAMPOO, MERONG BUHOK NA WALANG SABIT...
CHIONGLO 9/1
AT MERONG BUHOK NA ISINASABIT!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TEACHER, SI ROX... NANGONGOPYA!!!
COPYING MACHINE

Cross-country biking for a cause

From page D1

producing all six major hormones, a rare condition known as panhypopituitarism.

James turned to God and to modern medicine. After several treatments and even more medication, his tumors are now gone and his cancer is in remission. He's not completely without problems. Among other things, he still has to take medicine to replace those hormones, but he's remarkably cheerful about it.

In fact, he doesn't like to be called a cancer victim. "We are not victims," he says. "The least you can call us is survivors."

During his trips to the hospital, he saw the sad life of children with cancer. He also discovered that the survival rate of kids with cancer in the Philippines was shockingly low compared to that of other countries.

Warriors for others

Inspired by cyclist Lance Armstrong's Tour de France win in 1999 and fueled by his belief that God gave him a second chance at life to do something for others, James started the Cancer Warriors Foundation, whose pet project is Bike For Life. James and other volunteers cycle from Manila to other parts of the country to help raise money for kids with cancer.

The first Bike for Life was held in 2000, with James and company biking from Manila to Cebu. The second Bike for Life project in 2002 had the Warriors cycling the coastline of Luzon as they went from Manila to Pagudpod and back again.

The tours take about two weeks to complete, with about 15 stops along the way. James' core group bikes in the morning, averaging 70 km, then they reach their designated stop where they hold a cancer consciousness forum.

At every stop, they look for a local survivor and ask him or her to talk about his experience, and a doctor and a priest to offer advice, insight and a more holistic approach to cancer treatment.

Not surprisingly, such an undertaking needs months of preparation, planning and training. The next Bike for Life was supposed to be held this September, the International Kids Consciousness Month, with the plan to go from Manila to Davao. But because of lack of sponsors and because James was unable to do the physical training for it, he plans to hold it in January next year instead.

He's inviting whoever is interested to pitch in, but he wants people who are really serious about doing something, no matter how small.

"There are lots of people who give suggestions but when you need their time and effort they're not there," he explains.

Essence of life

This can-do attitude permeates even the selection process of the children the foundation supports. Right now the foundation is giving medicine to at least 70 kids, majority of whom are in the Philippine General Hospital. In order to be selected as a foundation recipient, the child's family has to show its willingness to do its best for the child and not just rely on the foundation to do everything.

James tells of one child they supported until his cancer disappeared, only to die later on not from the recurrence of the disease but from parental neglect. "*Ayaw naming maulit yung* experience *na 'yon*," he says.

At present, James is taking his master's degree in Entrepreneurship for Social and Development Enterprises at the Asian Institute of Management on a 50-percent scholarship (the rest paid for by his parents), to help improve the life of the Cancer Warriors Foundation and its stakeholders.

The foundation has also started a livelihood program for parents of cancer-stricken children, and hopes to set up an endowment fund to make the foundation financially sustainable through the years, since its founder's life has what he calls an "exclamation point."

And while the Bike for Life project is postponed for the moment, James and the foundation have another fundraising project, a concert called Cancert to be held on Oct. 17 at Folk Arts Theater.

James has no personal gain from Bike for Life aside from the satisfaction which he says, "comes from the thought that you are helping others and not just yourself, na *sa tingin ko* is the essence of life. Happiness comes from helping others for the greater glory of God and for the improvement of our nation. The process starts not from everybody else but from yourself."

Call 0917-8485258 or 5514588. E-mail jauste@pacific.net.ph or visit www.c-warriors.org

We publish stories about young people and groups who are trying to make a difference. You can submit articles or send us suggestions at ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Because age is not a hindrance, it's a springboard for change

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JCB NEW 35628888/John Cruz

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- **There will be 5 monthly draws with one winner for Boracay and one winner for Subic per draw.**
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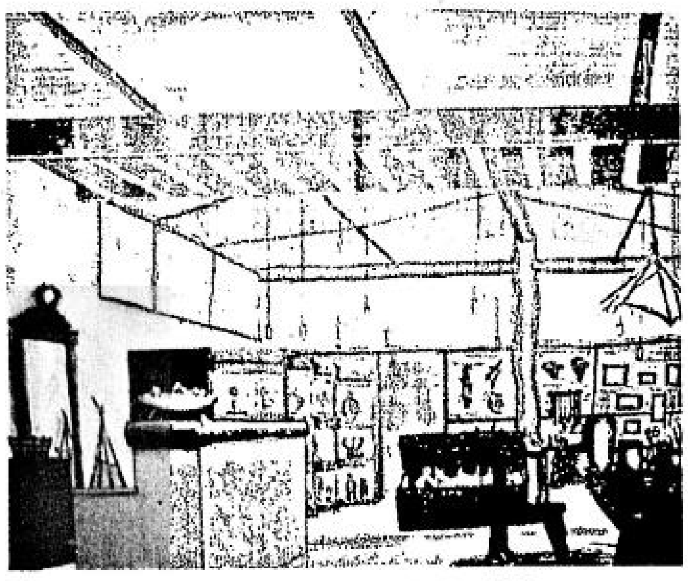
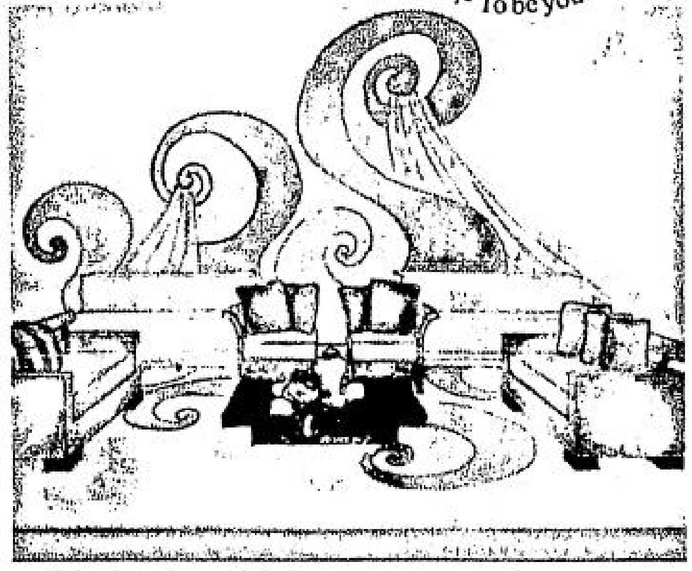
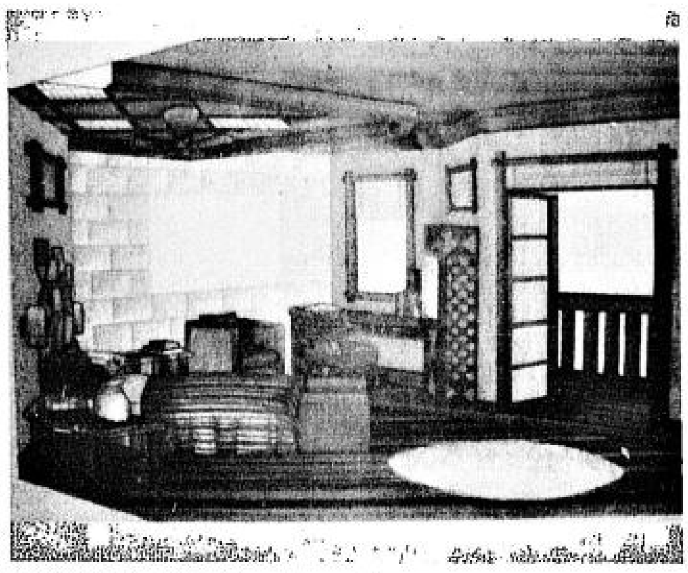
Meet the future of Philippine interior design in five young students bursting with verve and creativity



PERSPECTIVE of a native curio shop by David Yu



STAGE design for a TV talk show by Penelope Ramos



COTTAGE suite by Leny Ang and group

Making homes out of houses

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

YOUR home is who you are. And because the state of your space reflects a great deal about who you are, making efficient use of it is necessary.

Students of the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) are very much aware of this. Interior design may be glamorized by makeover shows on The Lifestyle Network and The Entertainment Channel, but they know that conceptualizing, planning, constructing and decorating your living area is much hard work.

Hard work

Leny-Lyne Ang, Penelope Ramos, Camille Santiago, David Yu and Peter Vergara are already in the advanced class at PSID, and their combined experience covers a broad spectrum—internships with international companies, formulation of marketing plans, coveted apprenticeships, and even modeling.

How long does it take them to design a room?

"If you look at shows like Queer Eye, they do it in a span of a day," says Penny. "And that's impossible; you have to do the floor plan, the layout, choose what fabrics to put... So it really takes a long time. In my opinion, the design is very inspiring, but sometimes it looks much better on TV than in real life."

Formal study in interior design is "helpful for me as an architect because I started using bright colors as opposed to using just neutral colors," says David. "And then you start using different styles so it gives you that versatility that architects sometimes lack. They don't go beyond the geometrical."

Design projects aren't just your typical homework either. Says Camille: "We do a floor plan, a full perspective, then you have to color it. Then when you present you have to know all the materials. When you present you have your design rationale... So I'm saying it's really hard."

"You also have to think of the people," says Leny. "Which is why you have the client's profile. If they have kids at this certain age, of course you won't use this certain material. You also have to think of their profession."

Personal styles

Their personal styles also reflect the wide range of interior design aesthetics available in the market. Peter prefers modern and art deco due to its masculinity and simplicity. "*May laman, hindi yung* boring *na* simple," he says.

Camille, who loves the beach, works mainly with tropical Asian scenarios. High-tech architecture and modernism characterize David's work. Leny loves to work with colors, regardless of style. And for Penny, class, elegance and cleanliness are what matters.

Fantasy houses and palatial estates are not their only projects. As part of assigned projects in school, they also conceptualize children's museums, orphanages and other structure. that do not always translate to big bucks.

And despite our generation's tendency to be nomadic, opting for condos and apartments while studying or working, these students stress that making efficient and productive use of the space you have, however limited, is essential.

This year's PSID students will be presenting their designs in an exhibit called "Popcorn." The themes of the rooms involve styles from cinema. Indeed, gone are the days when choosing designs simply meant picking out wallpaper colors. Nowadays, as these young artists show, it's all about individual style.

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Need a space lift?

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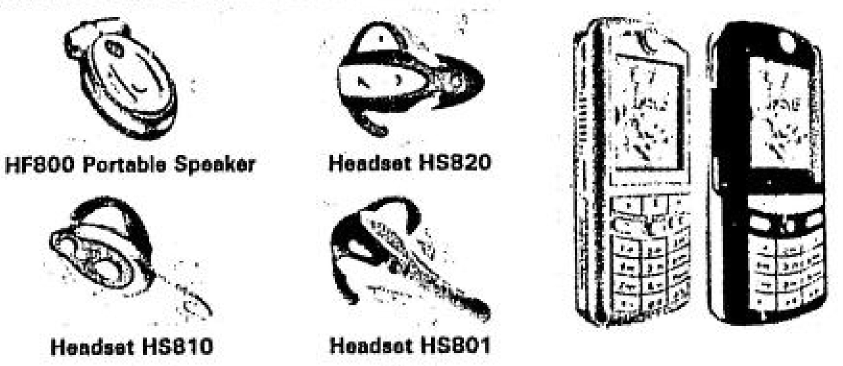

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